

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

**1986
ANNUAL
REPORT**



Alaska Court System

State of Alaska

303 "K" STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
99501

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ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

To say that FY 1986 was a difficult period for the State of Alaska would be a gross understatement. The plummeting price of oil devastated the state budget and forced all state agencies to reevaluate projects, programs and personnel utilization. The Alaska Court System responded to the crisis with a detailed plan of budget cuts and a hiring freeze. Less money means less resources and fewer people, and thus fewer services available to be offered to the public. The court, however, is a branch of government faced with a special dilemma: in spite of shrinking revenues, the court has a constitutional mandate to resolve disputes and provide legal remedies, and it must accept and handle all business legitimately brought before it. The court's ability to shrink expenditures is therefore severely limited because of its inability to cut mandated services.

The court experienced some leveling off in the number of case filings in FY 1986. Caseloads in many locations appear to have stabilized, at least temporarily, after the periods of rapid growth seen in the last few years. In the face of chaotic economic forecasts, a realistic prediction for future caseload growth may be difficult. If the state loses population, it may be inferred that caseloads will decrease. However, hard economic times have been associated with increased rates of both civil litigation and criminal activity.

The Alaska Court System continues to strive to serve the people of the state fairly and efficiently. The budget crisis has forced a reevaluation of the court's work, as is only appropriate. Through the use of automation, streamlined systems and conscious efforts towards incorporating improvements and minimizing waste, the court will meet its constitutional charge to provide the state with a viable, unified judicial system.

It is my pleasure to transmit the FY 1986 Annual Report for the Alaska Court System.

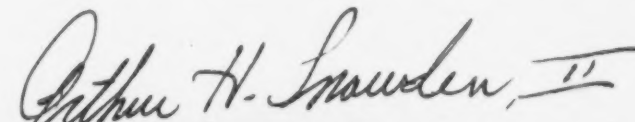

Arthur H. Snowden, II
Administrative Director

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PROFILE

PROFILE OF THE ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

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ALASKA COURT SYSTEM FACT SHEET

(Information as of June 30, 1986)

FISCAL YEAR: July 1 - June 30

Geographical area served: 566,000 square miles

Number of judges: 5 supreme court justices
 3 court of appeals judges
 29 superior court judges
 16 district court judges

Number of court locations:

15 superior and district court locations
44 district courts only (judge and/or magistrate)

Total number of permanent full-time court employees: 596

6 largest trial courts (by number of permanent full-time employees):

Anchorage: 204
Fairbanks: 83
Juneau: 22
Ketchikan: 17
Kenai: 15
Palmer: 14

BUDGET

FY 1986 court system annual budget: \$39,582,100

Percentage increase over FY 1985 annual budget: 3.3%

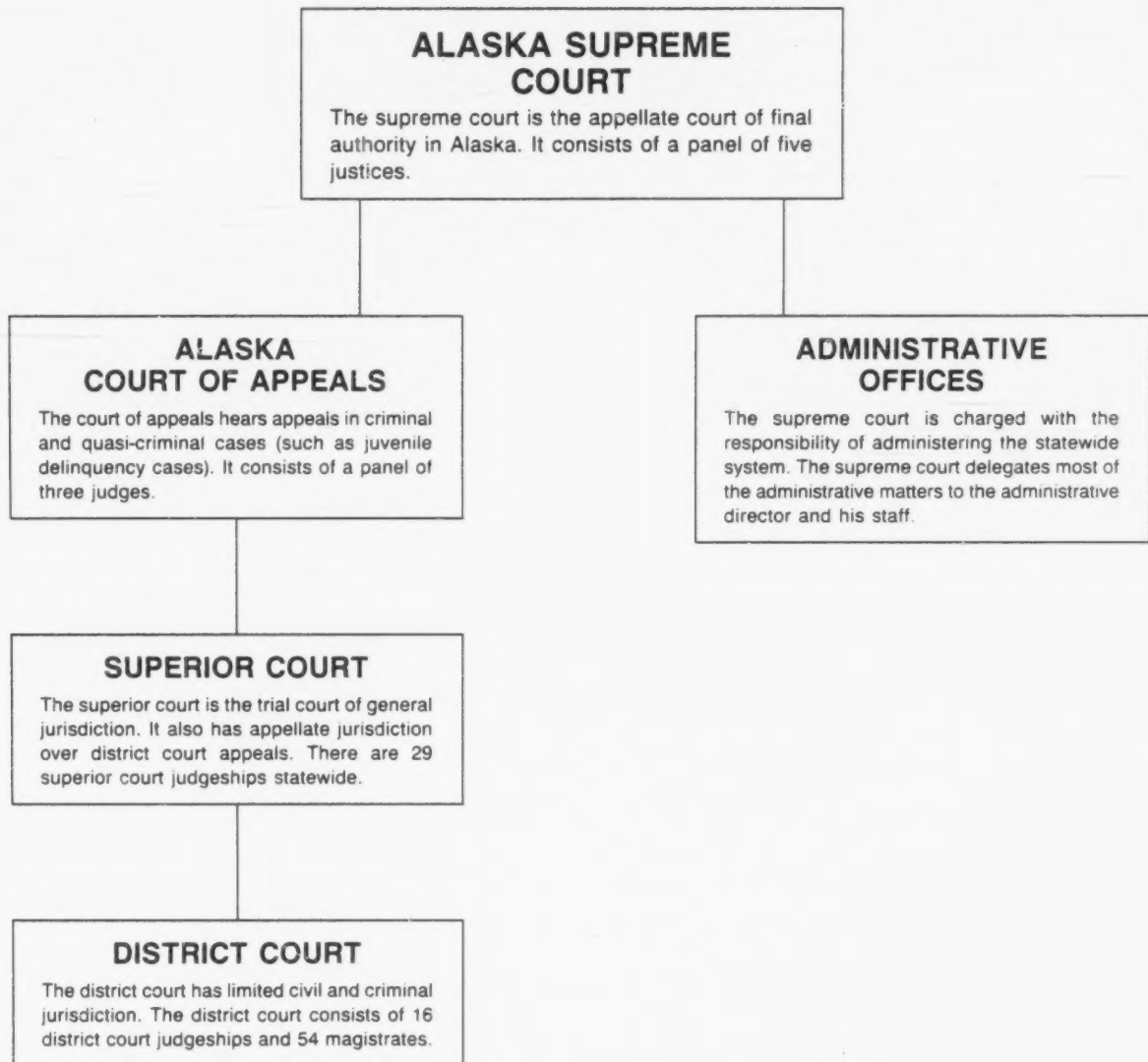
Percentage of FY 1986 annual state general fund budget: 1.5%

CASELOAD

Number of Cases Filed and Decided in FY 1986

Court	#of Cases FILED	% Change From FY 85	#of Cases DECIDED	% Change from FY 85
Supreme Court	631	+ 20%	645	+ 33%
Appeals Court	588	+ 16%	688	+ 49%
Superior Court	21,071	- 3%	18,706	+ 1%
District Court	136,665	- 3%	126,997	- 1%

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM ORGANIZATION



The Alaska judiciary has a unified, centrally administered, and totally state funded judicial system. County and municipal governments do not maintain a separate court system.

Profile of the Alaska Court System

JULY 1, 1985 - JUNE 30, 1986
Fiscal Year 1986

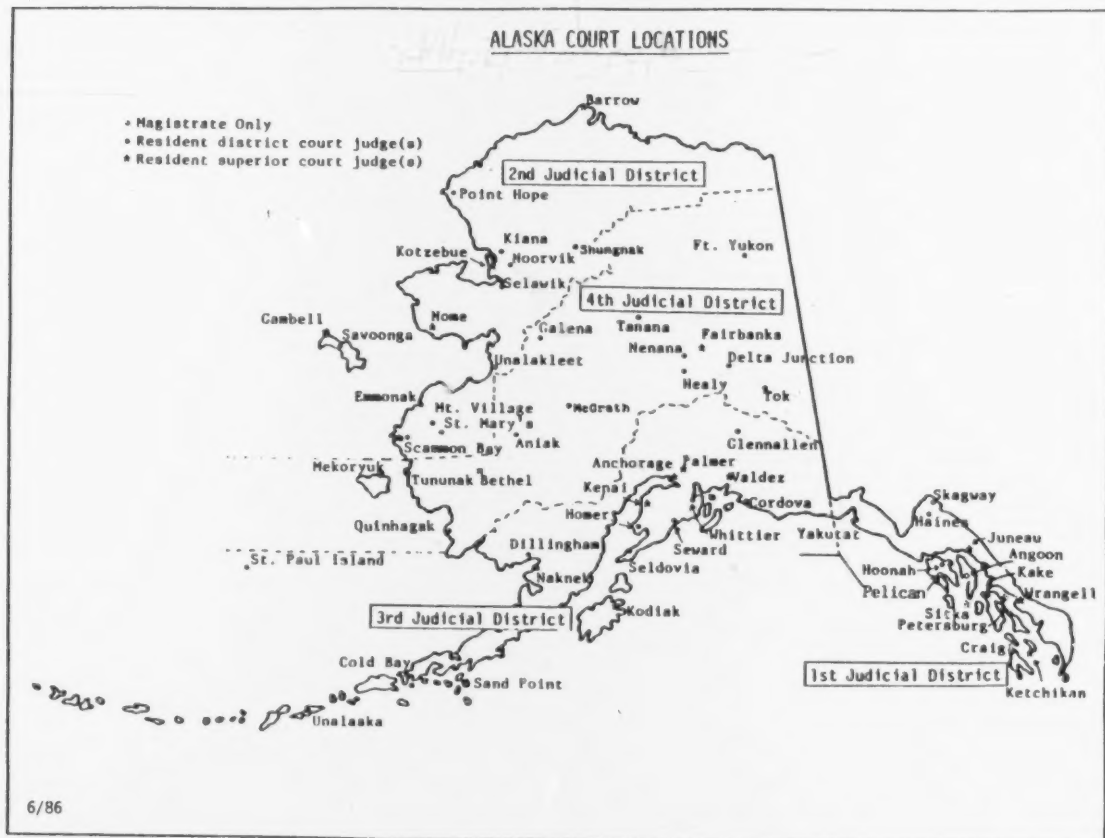
Introduction

There are four levels of courts in the Alaska Court System, each with different powers, duties and responsibilities. Alaska has no city, county or borough courts.

The chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court is the administrative head of the Alaska Court System. An administrative director is appointed by the chief justice with concurrence of the supreme court. The administrative director super-

vises the administration of all courts in the state.

The four levels of courts in the Alaska Court System are the supreme court, the court of appeals, the superior court and the district court. The supreme court and the superior court were established in the Alaska Constitution. The district court was established by state statute in 1959 and the court of appeals was established



by state statute in 1980. Jurisdiction and other areas of the judicial responsibility for each level of court are set out in Title 22 of the Alaska Statutes.

Rules governing the administration of all courts as well as the rules of practice and procedure for civil and criminal cases are promulgated by the supreme court.

The Supreme Court

The Alaska Supreme Court is the highest level of state court in Alaska. The supreme court is comprised of the chief justice and four associate justices.

The five justices, by majority vote, select one of their members to be the chief justice. The chief justice holds that office for three years and may not serve consecutive terms.

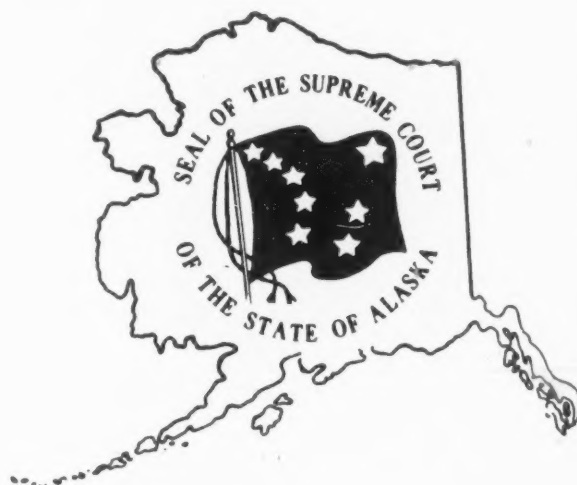
During FY 1986,¹ the Honorable Jay A. Rabinowitz was the chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. His term began October 1, 1984. He is the senior member of the current court, having served for 21 years. Chief Justice Rabinowitz resides in Fairbanks.

Justice Edmond W. Burke has served on the court for 12 years. He resides in Anchorage.

Justice Warren W. Matthews, who resides in Anchorage, has served on the supreme court for 10 years.

Justice Allen T. Compton has been a member of the supreme court for six years. When he was appointed to the supreme court in 1980, he resided in Juneau. He moved to Anchorage in September 1983.

Justice Daniel A. Moore, Jr. has been a member of the supreme court for three years. He resides in Anchorage.



¹The court system's fiscal year is July 1 - June 30. FY 86 is July 1, 1985 - June 30, 1986.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Justice Allen Compton, Justice Daniel Moore, Justice Edmond Burke, Chief Justice Jay Rabinowitz and Justice Warren Matthews

The supreme court hears cases on appeal from every location in the state. An appeal may be taken to the supreme court from a final judgment (that is, a judgment which substantially ends the court case) entered by the superior court in any civil action or proceeding. In criminal actions (and in certain quasi-criminal matters such as juvenile delinquency cases), the supreme court has the discretion to accept or deny litigants' requests that it review decisions made by the court of appeals. The supreme court may also take jurisdiction of a

case pending before the court of appeals if the court of appeals certifies that the case involves a significant question of constitutional law or an issue of substantial public interest.

The Alaska Constitution grants the supreme court the power to establish rules governing the administration of all courts in the state and rules governing practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases. The supreme court has also adopted other rules such as rules governing the practice of law in the

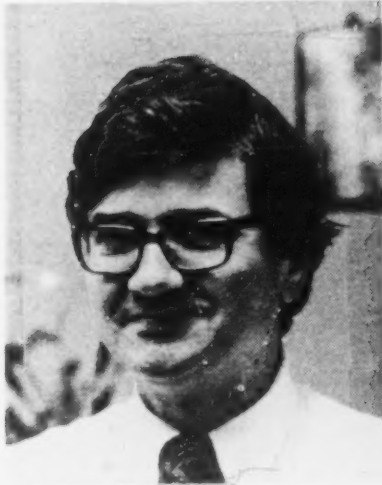
State of Alaska, rules governing practice and procedure in children's matters, rules of probate procedure and rules of appellate procedure. The Alaska Legislature may change rules governing practice and procedure by an act expressing its intent to do so which is passed by a two-thirds majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The supreme court meets weekly to confer on pending judicial and administrative matters. Arguments are heard by the five justices as a panel throughout the year on a monthly basis in Anchorage and Fairbanks, quarterly in Juneau and occasionally in other court locations. The supreme court will generally hear argument in the city where the case was heard by the trial court. Following argument or submission of the case on the basis of briefs without argument, the supreme court will decide the case, write an opinion and initiate its publication in the Pacific Reporter, 2d series, the regional reporter for the northwestern states. The State of Alaska has designated West Publishing Company's Alaska Reporter as its official reporter.

The clerk's office of the appellate courts, which includes the supreme court and the court of appeals, is located in Anchorage. David Lampen was appointed clerk of the appellate courts in February 1984. The clerk is required to be an attorney, preferably with some appellate experience. Responsibilities of the clerk include monitoring the caseload through the supreme court and the court of appeals as well as making recommendations for improvements in appellate procedure. The clerk is also responsible for all case filing

and calendaring, publishing opinions and related tasks. Deputy clerks are located in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks.

The Court of Appeals



Judge James Singleton



Chief Judge Alex Bryner



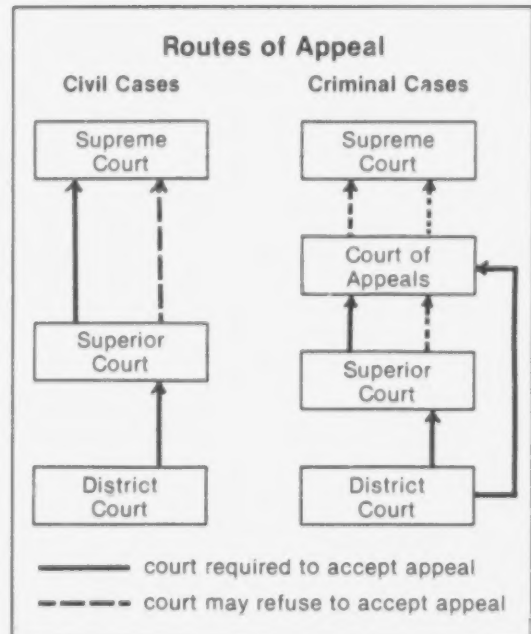
Judge Robert Coats

The court of appeals is a three-judge panel created by the Alaska Legislature in 1980. The three judges originally selected in 1980 remain on the court. They all reside in Anchorage where the court of appeals regularly meets. The court of appeals travels to Fairbanks as caseload demands.

The court of appeals has the authority to hear appeals from judgments in criminal cases and certain other quasi-criminal cases in which a minor is accused of committing a crime (juvenile delinquency cases), cases in which prisoners are challenging the legality of their confinement (habeas corpus matters), and cases involving probation and parole decisions.

Criminal appeals from the district court can be taken to the superior court or to the court of appeals, at the option of the defendant. A defendant who appeals from district court to superior court can ask the court of appeals to review the resulting decision of the superior

court, but the court of appeals may, in its discretion, refuse to hear the appeal.



The Superior Court

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters.

SUPERIOR COURT JURISDICTION

The superior court:

- serves as an APPELLATE COURT for appeals from the district court
- hears cases involving CHILDREN who have committed crimes or who are abused or neglected
- hears cases involving the PROPERTY OF DECEASED OR INCOMPETENT PERSONS
- hears cases involving the INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT of persons to institutions for the mentally ill
- handles DOMESTIC RELATIONS matters

At the end of FY 86, there were 29 superior court judges serving the State of Alaska. During this fiscal year there was only one change on the superior court bench. Bethel Superior Court Judge Christopher Cooke retired in June 1986, and, on May 20, 1986, Governor Sheffield appointed Gail Roy Fraties to fill this judgeship. Judge Fraties began his judicial service on June 16, 1986.

The State of Alaska is divided into four judicial districts. The boundaries of the districts are defined by state statute. The judicial districts define the boundaries for judicial retention elections at which voters indicate their approval or rejection of judges and justices.

In January of each year, the chief justice of the supreme court design-

nates a superior court judge from each of Alaska's four judicial districts to serve as presiding judge for a term of one calendar year. The presiding judge, in addition to regular judicial duties, is responsible for the administration of the trial courts within the district, including assignment of cases, supervision of court personnel,

efficient handling of court business and appointment of magistrates. In January 1986, Judges Thomas E. Schulz (first judicial district), Charles Tunley (second judicial district), Douglas Serdahely (third judicial district) and Ray Hodges (fourth judicial district) were reappointed as presiding judges for their respective districts.

Superior Court Judges of the First Judicial District



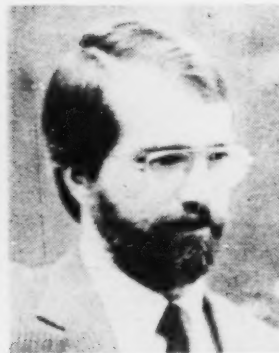
Presiding Judge
Thomas E. Schulz
Appointed 1974
Ketchikan



Walter Carpeneti
Appointed 1981
Juneau



Duane Craske
Appointed 1976
Sitka

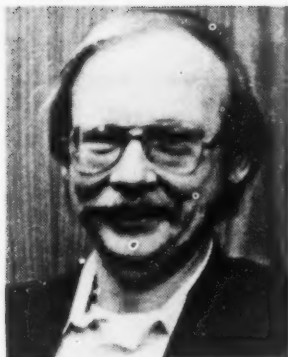


Thomas M. Jahnke
Appointed 1985
Wrangell/Petersburg



Rodger Pegues
Appointed 1981
Juneau

Superior Court Judges of the
Second Judicial District



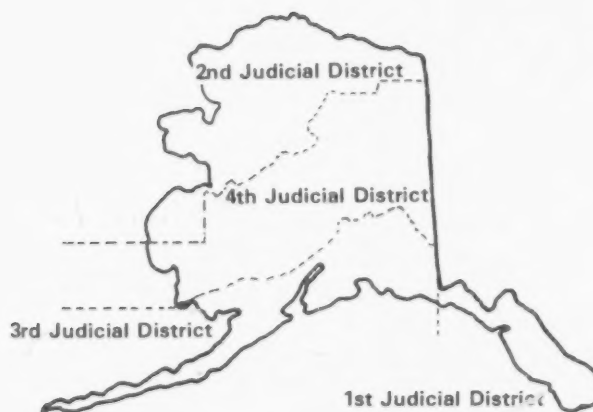
Presiding Judge
Charles R. Tunley
Appointed 1980
Nome



Michael Jeffery
Appointed 1982
Barrow



Paul Jones
Appointed 1980
Kotzebue



Superior Court Judges of the
Third Judicial District



Presiding Judge
Douglas Serdahely
Appointed 1980
Anchorage



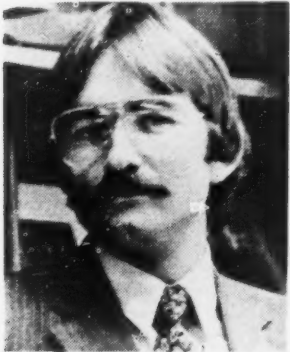
Charles Cranston
Appointed 1981
Kenai



Roy Madsen
Appointed 1975
Kodiak



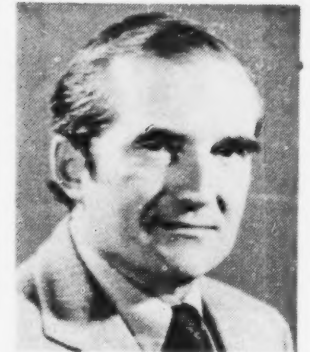
Beverly Cutler
Appointed 1982
Palmer



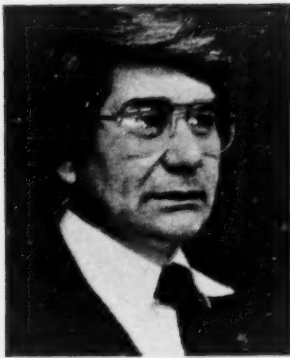
John Bosshard, III
Appointed 1984
Valdez



S. J. Buckalew, Jr.
Appointed 1973
Anchorage



Victor Carlson
Appointed 1970
Anchorage



Rene J. Gonzalez
Appointed 1984
Anchorage



Karen Hunt
Appointed 1984
Anchorage



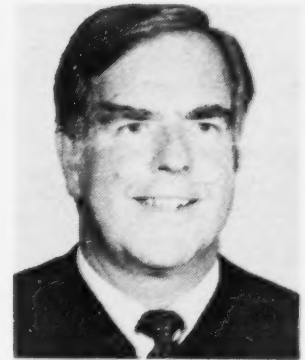
Karl Johnstone
Appointed 1979
Anchorage



Joan M. Katz
Appointed 1984
Anchorage



Peter A. Michalski
Appointed 1985
Anchorage



J. Justin Ripley
Appointed 1975
Anchorage



Mark Rowland
Appointed 1977
Anchorage



Brian Shortell
Appointed 1980
Anchorage

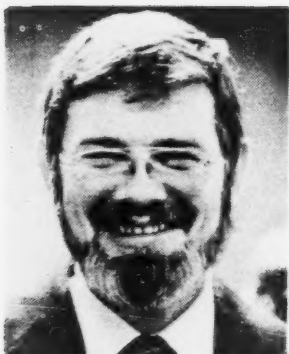


Milton Souter
Appointed 1978
Anchorage

Superior Court Judges of the
Fourth Judicial District



Presiding Judge
Jay Hodges
Appointed 1976
Fairbanks



James Blair
Appointed 1975
Fairbanks



Mary E. Greene
Appointed 1985
Fairbanks



Gerald Van Hoomissen
Appointed 1970
Fairbanks



Christopher Cooke
Appointed 1976
Bethel

The District Court

The Alaska Constitution provides that the legislature shall establish such lower courts as may be necessary. In 1959 the legislature created a district court for each judicial district and granted to

the supreme court the power to increase or decrease the number of district court judges within each judicial district. As of June 30, 1986, there were 16 district court judges in Alaska.

DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION

A district court judge may:

- hear STATE MISDEMEANORS and violations of CITY AND BOROUGH ORDINANCES
- issue SUMMONSES, ARREST WARRANTS and SEARCH WARRANTS
- hear first appearances and PRELIMINARY HEARINGS in felony cases
- issue ABSENTEE BALLOTS and record VITAL STATISTICS (in some areas of the state)
- serve as CORONER, hold inquests and act as temporary caretaker of property of deceased persons
- hear CIVIL CASES valued up to \$25,000
- hear SMALL CLAIMS cases (\$2,000 maximum increased to \$5,000 as of July 1, 1986)
- handle cases involving CHILDREN on an emergency basis
- hear DOMESTIC VIOLENCE cases

Legislation that became effective July 1, 1986, increased the \$2,000 maximum in small claims cases to \$5,000. The legislature also funded

an additional acting district court judge position to be located at Palmer. This position remained vacant at the end of FY 1986.

In the smaller, generally rural areas of the state, where the services of a full-time district court judge are not required, magistrates preside over certain district court matters. Magistrates also serve in most metropolitan areas to handle routine matters and ease the workload of the district court. As of June 30, 1986, there were 36

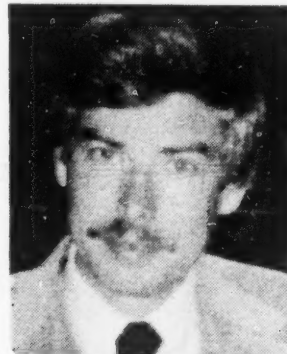
court locations in Alaska in which a magistrate was the highest ranking judicial officer.

A magistrate is not required to be a lawyer. The magistrate is a judicial officer of the district court whose authority is more limited than the authority of a district court judge.

District Court Judges of the First Judicial District

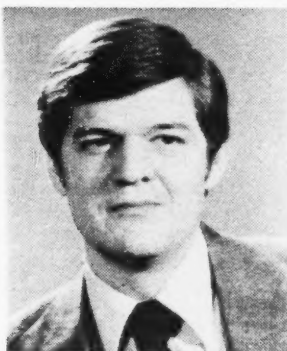


George Gucker
Appointed 1983
Ketchikan



Linn Asper
Appointed 1984
Juneau

District Court Judges of the Third Judicial District



Glen Anderson
Appointed 1978
Anchorage



Elaine Andrews
Appointed 1981
Anchorage



Martha Beckwith
Appointed 1984
Anchorage



Natalie Finn
Appointed 1983
Anchorage



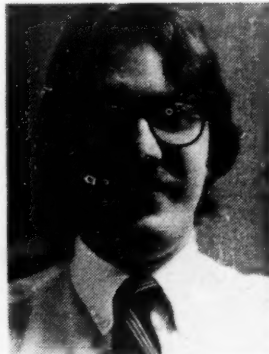
William Fuld
Appointed 1983
Anchorage



John Mason
Appointed 1970
Anchorage



Ralph Stemp
Appointed 1984
Anchorage



David Stewart
Appointed 1984
Anchorage



Michael White
Appointed 1984
Anchorage



James Hornaday
Appointed 1976
Homer

District Court Judges of the Fourth Judicial District



Hugh Connelly
Appointed 1960
Fairbanks



H. E. Crutchfield
Appointed 1980
Fairbanks



Jane Kauvar
Appointed 1981
Fairbanks



Christopher Zimmerman
Appointed 1985
Fairbanks

MAGISTRATE JURISDICTION

In civil cases, a magistrate may:

- hear SMALL CLAIMS cases (\$2,000 maximum increased to \$5,000 as of July 1, 1986)
- hear FORMAL CIVIL cases (\$1,000 maximum increased to \$5,000 as of July 1, 1986)
- issue SUMMONSES, writs of HABEAS CORPUS (challenges to the legality of a person's confinement)
- issue MARRIAGE LICENSES
- perform CORONER duties, including inquests and presumptive death hearings
- perform NOTARY PUBLIC functions, record VITAL STATISTICS (births, deaths and marriages) and issue ABSENTEE BALLOTS
- handle cases involving CHILDREN on an emergency basis
- hear DOMESTIC VIOLENCE cases

In criminal matters, a magistrate may:

- enter a judgment of conviction if a defendant pleads guilty or no contest to any STATE MISDEMEANOR
- hold TRIALS and enter judgments in STATE MISDEMEANORS if the defendant agrees in writing to be tried by a magistrate
- hear trials of MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE violations and STATE TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS
- preside over PRELIMINARY HEARINGS in felony cases
- issue ARREST WARRANTS, SUMMONSES and SEARCH WARRANTS
- conduct EXTRADITION (fugitive from justice) proceedings

Statewide Court Administration

Statewide court administration is the responsibility of the chief justice of the supreme court. By court rule, this responsibility is delegated to

the administrative director of the courts subject to general guidelines set forth by the supreme court.

The Judicial Appointment Process

The governor of the State of Alaska appoints supreme court justices and judges of the court of appeals, superior court and district court from lists of qualified candidates submitted to the governor by the Alaska Judicial Council. The governor is given 45 days from receipt of nominations to make these appointments.

To be eligible for appointment to the supreme court, a person must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Alaska for five years prior to appointment. A justice must be licensed to practice law in Alaska at the time of appointment and must have engaged in the active practice of law for eight years.

A court of appeals judge must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Alaska for five years immediately preceding appointment, have been engaged for not less than eight years immediately preceding appointment in the active practice of law, and at the time of appointment be licensed to practice law in the State of Alaska.

The qualifications of a judge of the superior court are the same as for a supreme court justice, except that only five years of active practice are necessary.

A district court judge must be 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state for at least five years, and (1) be licensed to practice law in Alaska and have engaged in active practice of law for not less than three years immediately preceding appointment, or (2) have served for at least seven years as a magistrate in the state and have graduated from an accredited law school.

Magistrates are not appointed by the governor nor are their qualifications reviewed by the Alaska Judicial Council. Their appointments are made for an indefinite period by the presiding judge of the judicial district in which they will serve. Each magistrate serves at the pleasure of the presiding judge.

A magistrate does not have to be a lawyer. A magistrate must be 21 years of age, a United States citizen, and a citizen of Alaska for six months prior to appointment.

Judicial Retention Elections

Each supreme court justice and each court of appeals judge is subject to approval or rejection by a majority of voters statewide on a nonpartisan ballot at the first general election held more than three years after appointment. Thereafter, each justice must participate in a retention election every ten years; each court of appeals judge must participate every eight years.

Each superior court judge is subject to approval or rejection by the voters of the judicial district at the first general election held more than three years after the judge's appointment. Thereafter, the judge is subject to approval or rejection every sixth year. Each district court judge must also run in a retention election in his or her judicial district at the first general election held more than one year after appointment and in a like manner every fourth year thereafter.

State laws which require judges to participate in retention elections do not apply to magistrates.

Judicial Education

Judicial training in Alaska takes several different forms. There is a statewide judicial conference each year for justices and judges which includes training in specific areas of court procedure or operations. Judges and some magistrates are eligible for attendance at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. All magistrates attend at least one magistrate training conference per year and training judges, deputy training judges and staff of the administrative office

regularly visit with magistrates in their own court locations for on-site training.

In 1986 Alaska hosted the annual Six State Judicial Conference which brought together appellate and trial court judges from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. The conference was held in Anchorage from June 30 to July 2, 1986. Conference topics included Native American law, tort law developments, jury utilization, judicial immunity, application of computers to courtroom and judicial administration, family law and management of complex civil cases.

Five in-state magistrate training conferences were conducted between September 23 and December 6, 1985: a second district conference held in Kotzebue September 23-27; a fourth district conference held October 7-11 in Fairbanks; a Bethel area conference held October 21-25; a third district conference held in Anchorage November 18-22; and a conference for first district magistrates held in Juneau December 2-6. In addition a conference for training judges and deputy training judges was held in Anchorage November 7-8, 1985. A special second district conference was held in Kotzebue March 31 to April 5, 1986 to provide training in conducting criminal misdemeanor jury trials in rural villages. Also during FY 86, three new magistrates received one week, on-site training at their respective locations.

Budget and Fiscal Affairs

The Alaska Legislature annually appropriates from the state general fund all funds for the operation of the Alaska Court System. A state-wide budget for all trial courts, the appellate courts and court administration is prepared centrally by the administrative office.

FY 86 was a year of transition for state finances. With actual and projected declines in revenues, the rate of growth in operating budgets slowed significantly. In accord with this trend, the judicial budget increased just 3 percent over the prior year. In previous years, the rate of growth averaged over four percent. In recent years, the primary source of funding increases has been specific allocations of funds to offset the fiscal impact on the court of the passage of new laws. For the most part, the court has operated on the same budget and resources for the past two years.

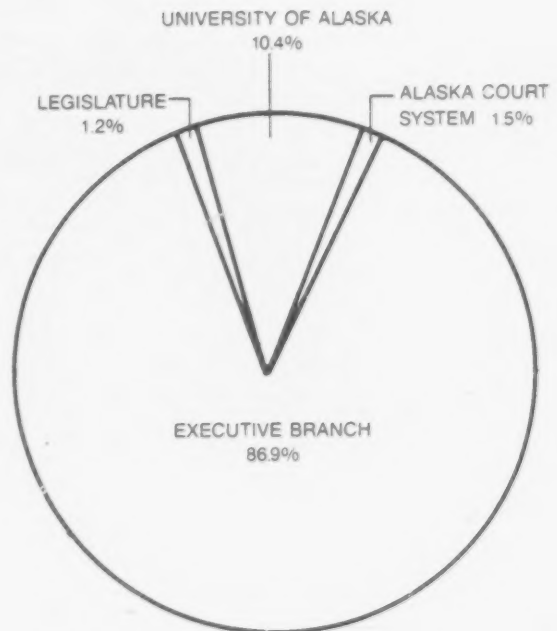
The court system operating budget accounts for approximately 1.5% of the total state general fund budget. The actual expenditures incurred by the court system during fiscal year 1984 were \$36,960,000; fiscal year 1985, \$38,249,800; and fiscal year 1986, \$39,003,900.

The budget process for the court system begins with the submission of budget requests by the various trial courts to the administrative office. These requests are reviewed with each district and are modified to fit into an overall state budget plan.

Following legislative review and appropriation, funds are then allocated to the various judicial districts, the appellate courts and the administrative office. The appropriation covers all costs of the

STATE OF ALASKA FISCAL YEAR 1986

PERCENTAGE OF OPERATING BUDGET



Total General Fund Budget = 2.6429 million

judicial branch in the state including judges' salaries, facilities rent, clerks' offices and administrative support.

Personnel costs, at the 1986 level of \$30,958,700, represent approximately 79% of the total operating budget.

STATEWIDE BUDGET FOR ALASKA COURT SYSTEM - FISCAL YEAR 1986

Operating Budget Unit	FY 86 Expenditures	Full-Time Positions		
		Judges/ Justices	Magistrates	Support Personnel
Appellate Courts	\$ 3,634,400	8		44
Trial Courts:				
1st District	4,168,200	7	11	45
2nd District	3,360,300	3	17	17
3rd District	16,390,100	26	14	231
4th District	6,884,900	9	14	83
Administration	4,566,000			67
Total	\$39,003,900	53	56	487

Expenses for rent, maintenance and insurance on court facilities in 59 locations across the state amounted to \$2,084,500. Jury fees amounted to \$1,200,700. Due to the distances between courts, approximately \$794,100 was spent for travel, including judicial, administrative, conference and juror travel and living expenses. Other operating expenses of the court, including commodities, phones, postage, and equipment rental, make up approximately \$3,965,900 of the annual expense of the court.

Revenues generated by the courts are deposited in the state general fund, except those originating from municipal ordinance violations, which are disbursed to the respective municipalities.

The court system annually collects over \$5,500,000 in revenues. In fiscal year 1986, the revenue generated from fines and forfeitures amounted to \$2,790,900; civil case filing fees (\$70.00 superior court, \$35.00 district court, \$5.00 small claims*) \$1,819,600; clerical fees (notary, transcript, copies) and other miscellaneous receipts, \$479,500; and cost recoveries and interest on investments, \$433,900.

*Effective July 1, 1986, the filing fee for small claims actions was raised to \$15.00.

Alaska Judicial Council

The Alaska Judicial Council, which operates independently of the court system, was created by the state constitution to perform two primary functions: (1) to solicit, screen and nominate applicants for gubernatorial appointments to vacant judgeship positions and (2) to conduct studies for the improvement in the administration of justice and make recommendations to the legislature and the supreme court. The council is comprised of the chief justice, who serves as chair and ex officio member; three attorney members appointed by the Board of Governors of the Bar Association;

and three non-attorney members appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. These six members serve for six-year terms.

The judicial council, which must report to the legislature and the supreme court at least once every two years, is assisted by a full-time executive director and support staff. For more information regarding the functions of the Alaska Judicial Council, call (907) 279-2526.

Commission on Judicial Conduct

The Commission on Judicial Conduct, created by the state constitution, operates independently of the court system.

The commission consists of nine members: three state court judges or justices; three lawyers with at least ten years experience in the practice of law in Alaska; and three persons who are not lawyers or judges. The commission investigates complaints against state judges and justices. The commission has the power to reprimand a justice or judge either publicly or privately. The commission may also refer matters to the supreme court with a recommendation that a judge be suspended, removed or retired

from office or publicly or privately censured by the supreme court.

In calendar year 1985, the commission received 89 complaints, 39 of which were still unresolved at the end of 1985. The commission issued one private reprimand and one public reprimand during 1985.

For more information regarding the Commission on Judicial Conduct, call (907) 264-0528.

APPELLATE COURTS

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE APPELLATE COURTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1986

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Report on the Activities of the Appellate Courts

Fiscal Year 1986

INTRODUCTION

Fiscal year 1986 was an active and demanding period for the Alaska Supreme Court and the Alaska Court of Appeals. Statistically, the total number of new filings increased in both the supreme court and the court of appeals. Total dispositions for FY 86 also increased in both courts, thus allowing the courts to decrease their backlog of cases pending at the end of the fiscal year.

Supreme Court

EXPLANATION OF STATISTICAL CATEGORIES

The supreme court's caseload has traditionally been divided into five statistical categories. These include:

Civil Appeals - A party may appeal as of right a final judgment in a civil case to the supreme court.

Criminal Appeals - An aggrieved party who is not satisfied with a decision in the court of appeals does not have an automatic right to have the supreme court consider the matter. Rather, the party must file a petition for hearing, seeking to have the supreme court exercise its discretion and agree to hear the case. A petition for hearing may be filed in three types of cases: (a) review of a decision by the court of appeals on a final appeal of the merits of a conviction; (b) review of a ruling by the court of appeals on a petition for review of an interlocutory order of the trial court; and (c) review of a ruling

by the court of appeals in a criminal appeal of a district court judgment to the superior court and then by petition for hearing to the court of appeals. A petition for hearing to the supreme court that arises in any of these contexts will statistically be included in the heading "criminal appeals."

Sentence Appeals - If a petition for hearing to the supreme court raises only issues involving the sentence imposed on a criminal defendant, the matter is included in this category.

Petition for Review - A party may petition the supreme court to review an interlocutory decision of the trial court while the case is still proceeding in the lower court. As with a petition for hearing, there is no automatic right of appeal and the supreme court must exercise its discretionary power and agree to hear the matter. This type of application is limited to civil cases.¹

Original Applications - There are a number of types of proceedings that do not involve appellate review of a specific ruling by a lower court. Instead, the application for relief is initially filed with the supreme court. These proceedings include bar admission and attorney discipline matters, and cases referred to the supreme court under Appellate Rule 407 in which a federal court has certified that questions of state law are present for which there is no controlling precedent in the decisions of the state supreme court.

¹ See page 35 for all footnote references

FILINGS (Tables I & III)

A total of 631 cases were filed, reinstated or transferred to the supreme court during FY 86.² This total represents an increase of 20% from the 528 total cases filed in FY 85 and a 17% increase over the FY 84 total of 541 cases. The FY 86 figure is the highest annual total since 1979, prior to the creation of the Alaska Court of Appeals.

After four years of increases, the number of civil appeals filed in FY 86 declined to 295 new cases. This is a 9% decrease from the 311 civil appeals filed in FY 85 and a 2% decrease from the 300 civil filings in FY 84. The number of original applications filed remained constant for the second year in a row at 23 original filings in FY 86.

The increase in the total overall number of new filings for FY 86 is directly due to the growth in the number of discretionary applications filed with the supreme court. The total number of petitions for hearing and petitions for review filed had fluctuated within a fairly narrow range between FY 83 and FY 85, with 219 filings in FY 83, 221 filings in FY 84 and 194 filings in FY 85. In FY 86 the total number of discretionary applications jumped sharply to 313 filings, a 61% increase over FY 85. Each of the categories of discretionary applications reflects this development. The 152 new petitions for hearing in criminal appeals was a 63% increase over the 93 filings in FY 85 and a 92% increase over the 79 filings in 1984. Petitions for hearing in sentence appeals increased by 133% from 9 in FY 85 to 21 in FY 86. The 173 criminal and sentence petitions for hearing filed in

FY 86 was the highest total since the creation of the court of appeals in 1980.

The number of petitions for review filed in FY 85 had dropped by 29%, leading to an overall decrease in the total number of filings for all types of cases before the supreme court between FY 84 and FY 85. This pattern was reversed in FY 86. The 140 petitions for review filed in FY 86 was a 52% increase over the 92 petitions filed in FY 85 and a 9% increase over the 129 petitions filed in FY 84. The 140 new petitions for review was the highest number filed in any year since 1980.

DISPOSITIONS (Table II & III)

The supreme court disposed of 645 cases in FY 86, the highest number of total dispositions in any year since comparable statistics began to be calculated in 1976. This figure represents a 33% increase over the FY 85 total (484 dispositions) and a 14% increase over FY 84 (567).

The court disposed of 328 civil appeals in FY 86, also the highest figure since 1976. This civil disposition total represents a 20% increase over the FY 85 total of 273. The number of petitions for hearing and review decided in FY 86 also exceeded the totals for the last several fiscal years. In FY 86 the court decided 163 petitions for hearing, a 75% increase over FY 85 (93 dispositions) and a 61% increase over FY 84 (101). The court also disposed of 127 petitions for review in FY 86, a 19% increase over FY 85 (104 dispositions) and a 7% increase over FY 84 (119). The court decided 27 original applications in FY 86, a 93% increase over the FY 85 total of 14 dispositions.

The court was thus able to reduce its overall backlog of pending cases by 14 in FY 86. The backlog of civil appeals pending at the end of the fiscal year stood at 303 cases, a decrease of 28 from the FY 85 total of 331 pending civil appeals.

The disposition totals for FY 86 can also be considered in terms of the number of cases decided on the merits versus those disposed of not on the merits. In FY 86 the court decided 256 cases on the merits out of a total of 645 dispositions, or 40% of the total. Dispositions on the merits had amounted to 45% of the total dispositions in FY 85 and 44% in FY 84. This decrease in the percentage in FY 86 reflects the fact that the court denied more petitions and original applications in FY 86 than in any year since 1976.

The court issued 131 opinions in FY 86, a 26% increase over the 104 opinions filed in FY 85. It also issued 63 unpublished Memorandum Opinion & Judgments (MO&Js), a 5% decrease from the 66 MO&Js published in FY 85. These statistics denote the continuing trend over the last several years for the court to dispose of a greater percentage of its cases by unpublished MO&Js. The publication percentage for the court's written rulings on the merits has shifted from 89% in FY 83 to 77% in FY 84, 61% in FY 85, and 66% in FY 86. The court was, therefore, able to dispose of nearly one third of the cases that it decided on the merits in FY 86 without the effort and time necessary to prepare a formal opinion for publication in each matter.

PENDING CASELOAD (Tables III, IV & VI)

The number of cases pending on June 30, 1986, stood at 390, a 4%

decrease from the prior end-of-year total of 404 cases. As noted above, the total numbers of filings and dispositions in FY 86 were the highest in many years. This allowed the court to cut into its backlog during the past year.

The total number of discretionary applications pending at the end of the year increased by 43% from 58 petitions pending at the end of FY 85 to 84 in FY 86. This increase reflects the sizable growth in filings of discretionary applications in FY 86. There were 303 civil appeals pending at the end of FY 86, a 9% decrease from the 331 civil appeals pending one year earlier. This decrease in the court's civil appeals backlog reflects the record number of civil appeal dispositions in FY 86.

Reviewing the pending caseload based upon the stage in the appellate process that the case has reached rather than upon the nature of the proceeding reveals that 58% of the pending cases (228 of 390 total cases) were at some stage of the appellate proceeding prior to consideration of the case on the merits by the court (awaiting preparation of the record, filing of briefs, or submission of the case to the court). Another 31% of the cases (121 of 390) had been submitted to the court, but it had not yet decided whether to grant or deny the discretionary application or it had not filed an opinion or MO&J on the merits. Comparable statistics disclose that 56% of the cases pending at the end of FY 85 were awaiting the filing of the record or briefs or the submission of the case to the court, and another 38% of the cases had been submitted to the court but a decision on the merits had not been filed.

One other recent trend continued in FY 86. The number of cases awaiting the certification of the record increased to 28% of the total pending cases (110 of 390) in FY 86, compared to 22% of the total in FY 85 and 13% in FY 84. Since the records are prepared by the superior court appeals division in each judicial district, this group of cases awaiting certification of the record is largely outside the control of the court or the clerk's office during the period that the records are being completed. An increase in the number of cases awaiting preparation of the record also impacts upon the number of cases being briefed and submitted to the court for decision. In FY 86 24% of the pending caseload (94 of 390 cases) was awaiting the filing of briefs. This compares with 26% of the pending cases in FY 85 and 37% in FY 84. Thus, there is a large block of pending civil appeals whose progress in the appellate system is controlled by factors largely outside the control of the appellate courts.

TIME REQUIRED FOR DISPOSITION OF CASES (Table V)

FY 86 was the first court year in which the supreme court's entire pending caseload throughout the year was entered in the computerized docketing system in the clerk's office. For the first time we have been able to generate computerized statistics for the time required for disposition of civil appeals. Median and average figures and tenth percentile and ninetieth percentile statistics are also available. This offers more accurate and useful information on disposition times. In past years, we have set out the lowest and highest numbers of total

days that it took any case counted in the statistics to progress from the beginning of the case to its disposition. It was difficult, however, to ascertain how much these extreme figures deviated from the average. We are now able to list not only the extreme figures on either side of the median, but also to set out the percentiles in the upper and lower ranges. The median number of days for completion of a civil appeal should be a more accurate indication of the time required for disposition of a civil case than the average number of days listed in prior annual reports.

The ideal time frame for completion of an appeal under the time limits specified in the appellate rules and the internal procedures of the court is 10.8 months.³ The average number of days between the filing of a notice of appeal and the closing of a civil case increased from 496 days in FY 85 to 498 days in FY 86, or from 16.5 months in FY 85 to 16.6 months in FY 86. The median number of days for completion of a civil appeal in FY 86 was 467 days, three weeks below the average figure. While the highest and lowest figure for any civil appeal completed in FY 86 were 1096 and 218 days, 80% of the appeals took between 335 and 684 days to complete.

The average period of time from the filing of the notice of appeal to oral argument or the submission of the case for consideration on the briefs has remained fairly constant over the last four years (319 days in FY 83, 312 days in FY 84, 309 days in FY 85, and 302 in FY 86). Any improvement in the total disposition time for civil appeals over the last several years has come largely in the average time period from oral argument or the submission of the

case on the briefs to the publication of an opinion or MO&J. This time frame has decreased from 244 days in FY 83 to 168 in FY 86. The primary cause for this improvement appears to be the increasing use of MO&Js, which frequently require less time to draft, circulate and be approved by the court.

PETITIONS FOR HEARING

The supreme court has traditionally exercised its discretionary power to hear appeals from decisions of the court of appeals sparingly. For the prior four years the supreme court had granted a small percentage of the petitions for hearing that it considered (13% in FY 83, 14% in FY 84, and 13% in FY 85). The statistics for FY 86 do not, however, closely follow this trend. The supreme court voted on whether to grant or deny 163 petitions for hearing in FY 86. It granted 32 (20%) and denied 131 (80%). It may be that FY 86 is a statistically unusual year in this respect. Many of the petitions granted were cases raising issues similar to those presented in cases already before the court. The court chose to grant many of these petitions and stay the cases pending the outcome of the first case to raise the issues. At one point during FY 86, 13 petitions for hearing had been granted and stayed awaiting the filing of an opinion by the court in State v. Andrews & Koenig, 707 P.2d 900 (Alaska App. 1985), aff'd, ___ P.2d ___, Op. No. 3094 (Alaska, August 8, 1986).

Court of Appeals

EXPLANATION OF STATISTICAL CATEGORIES

The court of appeals' caseload has traditionally been divided into the following statistical categories:

Merit Appeals - Cases in which a party raises issues on the merits of a conviction in a direct appeal from the superior court or the district court. If the party raises issues on both the merits of the conviction and the sentence imposed, the case is included in this category.

Sentence Appeals - Cases in which a party appeals the sentence imposed.

Petitions - Cases in which a party requests that the court of appeals exercise its discretion in reviewing a ruling in a pending superior or district court matter (petition for review) or requests that the court of appeals review a decision of the superior court sitting on appeal from a final judgment in the district court (petition for hearing).

Original Applications - Cases in which relief cannot be obtained from the court of appeals through one of the above types of appeals.

FILINGS (Tables VII & IX)

The 586 new cases filed in FY 86 with the court of appeals, which considers only criminal cases, was the highest one year total since the court was created in 1980. The FY 86 total surpassed the previous high of 584 filings in FY 83. The FY 86 total was a 16% increase from the 506 new filings in FY 85.

DISPOSITIONS
(Tables VIII & IX)

The 346 new merit appeals filed in FY 86 was also the highest annual total in the history of the court of appeals. This figure represents a 21% increase over the FY 85 total of 287 new merit appeals filed. The same number of sentence appeals (158) was filed in FY 85 and FY 86. The number of petitions filed in FY 86 was also the highest total in the history of the court. The 83 new petitions filed in FY 86 is a 38% increase over the 60 petitions filed in FY 85. Finally, one original application was filed in FY 86.

It is also useful to review the new filings in terms of total felony versus total misdemeanor filings. In FY 86 there were 355 new filings involving felonies (both merit and sentence appeals), or 61% of the total filings for the year. Misdemeanor cases (both merit and sentence) totaled 138 matters, or 24% of the total filings. These figures on felony and misdemeanor filings as percentages of the total annual filings compares to ratios of 75% felonies and 17% misdemeanors in FY 85 and 61% felonies and 21% misdemeanors in FY 84.

While the total number of petitions filed with the court of appeals in FY 86 grew substantially, the increase was greatest with misdemeanor petitions for review and for hearing. The number of felony petitions for review filed in FY 86 decreased by 17% from 52 petitions in FY 85 to 43 petitions in FY 86. Misdemeanor petitions for review, however, increased 275% from 8 filed in FY 85 to 30 to FY 86. No misdemeanor petitions for hearing had been filed in FY 85. Ten such applications were filed in FY 86.

The court of appeals disposed of 688 cases during FY 86, the highest single year total in the history of the court. The 688 dispositions reflect a 49% increase from the FY 85 total of 461 cases and a 16% increase from the 594 dispositions in FY 83, the highest previous annual total. The number of merit appeals decided increased by 35% from 283 in FY 85 to 381 in FY 86. The number of sentence appeal dispositions increased by 69% from 122 in FY 85 to 206 in FY 86. Finally, the number of petitions decided increased by 80% from 55 in FY 85 to 97 in FY 86.

It can be argued that total dispositions in FY 85 had decreased from totals in the two prior years and that a comparison of FY 86 to FY 85 will not give a true picture for FY 86. When the FY 86 total is compared with the total dispositions for FY 83, the year with the prior highest total dispositions, FY 86 reflects a 10% increase in merit appeal dispositions, a 20% increase in sentence appeal dispositions, and a 38% increase in petition dispositions.

The ratio of felony to misdemeanor dispositions (both merit and sentence) has remained constant for the last three years. In FY 86 64% of the total dispositions involved felony matters (441 out of 684 total dispositions), and 21% involved misdemeanor cases (144 of 684). In FY 85 the ratio was 63% felony to 25% misdemeanor, and in FY 84 the ratio was 63% felony to 21% misdemeanor.

When the number of felony dispositions is divided between merit and sentence appeals, it reveals that 58% of the felony dispositions in FY 86 (255 of 441) involved merit cases, and 42% involved felony sentence appeals (186 of 441). The FY 85 ratio had been 64% felony merit to 36% felony sentence dispositions, and the FY 84 ratio had been 56% felony merit to 44% felony sentence. Thus, it is evident that the FY 86 felony dispositions more closely reflect the trends evident in FY 84 and earlier years.

In misdemeanor cases, however, the merit versus sentence ratio has remained constant over the last several years. In FY 86, 86% of the misdemeanor dispositions involved merit appeals (124 out of 144) and 14% involved sentence appeals (20 of 144). In FY 85, the comparable ratio was 85% merit to 15% sentence, and in FY 84 the ratio had been 81% merit to 19% sentence dispositions.

The court of appeals issued 149 published opinions in FY 86, a 45% increase over the total of 103 published in FY 85. The court also issued 337 unpublished MO&Js, the highest one year total in the history of the court. The 337 MO&Js is a 42% increase over the 238 issued in FY 85, and a 32% increase over the 255 MO&Js issued in FY 83, the previous highest one year total. These FY 86 figures reflect a publication percentage of 31%, which is comparable to the FY 85 figure of 30% and the FY 84 publication percentage of 33%.

Finally, total dispositions can be compared with total filings in order to reveal backlog trends. The court of appeals was able to cut into its backlog in every type of case pending before it. In FY 86

224 felony merit appeals were filed, but 255 cases were decided. In felony sentence cases, 140 were added, but 186 were decided. Thus, the court's backlog of felony cases decreased by 77 cases. Similarly, 120 misdemeanor merit appeals were filed in FY 86, but 124 were decided. Eighteen misdemeanor sentence matters were added, and 20 were decided, a decrease of 6 cases in the backlog of misdemeanor appeals. Finally, 83 petitions and original applications were filed in FY 86, but 99 were decided, a decrease of 16 in the court's backlog.

PENDING CASELOAD (Tables IX, X & VI)

There were 388 open files in the court of appeals on June 30, 1986, a decrease of 20% from the total caseload pending at the end of FY 85. Of these 388 cases, 79% (306 of 388) were merit appeals, and 19% (73 of 388) were sentence appeals. The ratio for prior years was 70% merit to 26% sentence in FY 85 and 79% merit to 19% sentence in FY 84. There had been an increase in the backlog of sentence appeals pending before the court at the end of FY 85, but the court reduced this backlog substantially in FY 86.

Of the 388 open files at the end of FY 86, 279 (or 72% of the total) were awaiting the completion of the record, the filing of briefs, or the submission of the case on the briefs or oral argument. Another 63 cases (or 16% of the total) were under advisement (awaiting the circulation of a draft disposition or the release of a circulated disposition). In FY 85, 45% of the cases pending at the end of the year were awaiting completion of the record, filing of the briefs or submission of the case

and 45% were under advisement. In FY 84 the same ratio was 59% awaiting submission to the court and 32% under advisement.

This noticeable decrease in the percentage of the pending cases under advisement reflects two recent developments. First, the high number of dispositions in FY 86 left relatively few cases under advisement pending at the end of the year. Second, there has been a noticeable increase in the past several years in the number of cases awaiting preparation of the record. In FY 84, 13% of the cases pending at the end of the year were awaiting completion of the record on appeal. By the end of FY 85 this had increased to 17% of the total. In FY 86 33% of the cases pending at the end of the year were awaiting preparation of the record on appeal. The primary cause for this development appears to be a considerable increase in the backlog of criminal transcript requests in the Third Judicial District in Anchorage. Steps have been taken to resolve this bottleneck. As this problem is resolved, more records will be completed and a greater number of cases will be briefed and submitted to the court for consideration on the merits.

TIME REQUIRED FOR DISPOSITION OF CASES (Table XI)

FY 86 was the first court year in which the court of appeals' entire caseload throughout the year was entered in the computerized docketing system in the clerk's office. Using this database, we have been able for the first time to generate computerized disposition statistics for the entire fiscal year, including median and average figures and

tenth and ninetieth percentile statistics. As was noted in the section on supreme court disposition times, median statistics offer a more accurate picture of the court's activities because they are not affected by the cases with low and high disposition extremes, as are average figures. The tenth and ninetieth percentile figures also give some indication as to how much these extreme figures deviated from the median or the average in that category.

The average time for disposition in FY 86 was 491 days for felony merit appeals, 309 days for misdemeanor merit appeals, 248 days for felony sentence appeals, and 229 days for misdemeanor sentence appeals. When compared to the FY 85 data, the FY 86 figures represent a 1% increase for felony merit appeals, a 9% increase for misdemeanor merit appeals, a 5% decrease for felony sentence appeals and a 6% decrease for misdemeanor sentence appeals.

Finally, it should be noted that the median number of days for disposition in each of the statistical categories was lower than the average number of days for disposition in FY 86. This is an indication that several unusual cases that take a very long time to complete can skew the figures for the average number of days for disposition upward. This seems to have been especially true in FY 86 with felony merit and sentence appeals. The highest number of days counted for any individual case during FY 86 was over 70% higher than the disposition totals for 90% of the other cases in those two categories.

FOOTNOTES

1. A party may appeal as of right a decision by the district court in a civil matter to the superior court. The losing party in the superior court may then petition the supreme court to exercise its discretion and hear the matter. These civil petitions for hearing have been included in the statistical category of "petitions for review."
2. Hereafter, all references to "filings" shall include both new filings, reinstatements of cases previously closed, and cases transferred from the court of appeals to the supreme court pursuant to Appellate Rule 408. There were 623 new filings, 4 cases reinstated, and 4 cases transferred to the supreme court in FY 86.
3. This "ideal time frame" is calculated based upon assumptions that (a) all of the deadlines in the Appellate Rules for the certification of the record and the filing of the briefs are met, (b) oral argument is scheduled for a date six weeks after the filing of the request for oral argument, and (c) the court circulates a draft opinion or MO&J within 90 days and the draft is approved and published within 40 days thereafter. Based upon a 30-day month, the total of 325 days for completion of the appeal has been rounded to 10.8 months.
4. Statistics for FY 85 did not follow statistical trends that have been established during the first four years of the existence of the court of appeals in many instances. Thus, comparing FY 86 to FY 85 statistics may not give a true correlation to trends that had existed during the prior history of the court. Accordingly, where appropriate, FY 86 figures will be compared to those from FY 85 and at least one other fiscal year.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE I

RECAPITULATION - FISCAL YEAR 1986

	<u>Civil Appeals</u>	<u>Criminal Appeals</u>	<u>Sentence Appeals</u>	<u>Petitions for Review</u>	<u>Originals</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Beginning	330	35	1	23	15	404
Transferred to Court of Appeals						0
Transferred from Court of Appeals	2	2				4
Filed	290	150	21	140	22	623
Reinstated	3				1	4
Converted ^a (net)	-1			+1		0
Corrected (net)	+7	+2	-1	-5	-3	0
Closed	328	148	15	127	27	645
Ending	303	41	6	32	8	390

^a By action of the court or the parties, cases are occasionally converted from one type to another. These figures represent the net of all such changes during 1985-86.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE II

DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 1986

DISPOSITIONS PUBLISHED OPINION	Civil Appeals	Criminal Appeals	Sentence Appeals	Petitions for Review ^a	Original Applications	TOTAL ALL CASES
Affirmed	59	7	1	1		68
Reversed or vacated	38	6		6	1	51
Affirmed in part/Reversed in part	28			2		30
Other	4	2			3	9
Total	129	15	1	9	4	158
SUMMARY ON MERITS						
Affirmed	44	1			1	46
Reversed or vacated	17			1		18
Affirmed in part/Reversed in part	3					3
Other	6			9	16	31
Total	70	1		10	17	98
TOTAL ON MERITS	199	16	1	19	21	256
PETITION DENIALS		118	13	95	4	230
DISMISSALS						
Stipulated or by Appellant	91	5		6		102
Motion of Appellee	13			1	1	15
Sua sponte	25	9	1	6	1	42
TOTAL NOT ON MERITS	129	132	14	108	6	389
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	328	148	15	127	27	645

^aAlso includes two small categories of petitions for hearing. See text.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE III - HISTORICAL^a

	1979	1980 ^c	1980-81 ^c	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
A. FILINGS^b								
Civil Appeals	305	255	303	257	271	300	311	295
Criminal Appeals	133	102	32	33	92	79	93	152
Sentence Appeals	40	51	15	1	14	13	9	21
Petitions for Review	141	140	119	104	113	129	92	140
Originals	37	24	24	14	19	20	23	23
TOTAL	656	572	493	409	509	541	528	631
B. DISPOSITIONS								
Civil Appeals	254	247	264	273	307	325	273	328
Criminal Appeals	139	126	104	26	83	89	79	148
Sentence Appeals	55	44	32	1	12	12	14	15
Petitions for Review	150	148	146	102	118	119	104	127
Originals	36	21	22	20	18	22	14	27
TOTAL	634	586	568	422	538	567	484	645
C. DISPOSITIONS								
On Merits	338	320	348	209	241	257	213	256
Petitions & Originals Denied	100	93	88	98	179	190	157	230
Dismissals	196	173	132	115	118	120	114	159
TOTAL	634	586	568	422	538	567	484	645
D. OPINIONS PUBLISHED								
MEMORANDUM OPINION AND JUDGMENTS	234	248	263	140	172	148	104	131
	38	26	19	21	21	43	66	63
E. PENDING END OF YEAR								
Civil Appeals	346	351	366	353	316	291	331	303
Criminal Appeals	200	41	13	23	33	21	35	41
Sentence Appeals	39	12	1	1	4	5	1	6
Petitions for Review	54	43	28	29	26	38	22	32
Originals	7	9	10	6	7	5	15	8
TOTAL	646	456	418	412	386	360	404	390

^aThe figures for cases pending at the end of one year plus the next year's filings minus dispositions do not always equal cases pending at the end of the following year due to reclassifications and corrections. See footnote a to Table I.

^bIncludes reinstatements.

^cOn September 18, 1980, the Court of Appeals began operations and the jurisdiction and workload of the Supreme Court changed significantly. Information before and after that date is therefore not strictly comparable. The 1980 reporting period covers the calendar year 1980. It overlaps by six months with the 1980-81 reporting period, which begins July 1, 1980 and ends June 30, 1981. Activity during the last six months of 1980 is therefore reported in both columns.

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE IV

REASONS FOR CASES PENDING JUNE 30, 1986

	<u>Civil Appeals</u>	<u>Criminal Appeals</u>	<u>Sentence Appeals</u>	<u>Petitions for Review</u>	<u>Original Applications</u>	<u>TOTAL ALL CASES</u>
Awaiting record	110					110
Awaiting briefs	65	9	3	14	3	94
Awaiting hearing/submission	19	2		2	1	24
With Central Staff	(3)	(0)		(0)	(0)	(3)
Not with Central Staff	(16)	(2)		(2)	(1)	(21)
Awaiting draft opinion	45	5		3		53
Draft opinion circulating	45	6	1	2	1	55
Awaiting decision on granting petition		3		10		13
Awaiting record return or decision on rehearing	12			1	3	16
Stayed or remanded	7	16	2			25
TOTAL CASES PENDING JUNE 30, 1986	303	41	6	32	8	390

ALASKA SUPREME COURT

TABLE V

LENGTH OF TIME TO DISPOSITION

(Average Number of Days)

Cases Decided by Opinion or MO&J

	Fiscal Year 1986 Civil Appeals (Number of Cases Considered)	Fiscal Year 1985 Civil Appeals	Fiscal Year 1984 Civil Appeals	Fiscal Year 1983 Civil Appeals
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	71 (193)	73	70	72
Record certification to Last Brief	147 (193)	150	147	156
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	84 (192)	86	95	91
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	84 (184)	69	99	118
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	84 (185)	99	122	126
Publication to Closing	25 (193)	19	25	31
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS	498 (193)	496 (181)	558 (208)	593 (213)
Lowest Total Number of Days	218	182	55	55
Tenth Percentile	335	-	-	-
Median Number of Days	467	-	-	-
Ninetieth Percentile	684	-	-	-
Highest Total Number of Days	1096	1350	1272	1392

ALASKA SUPREME COURT & COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE VI

BACKLOG MONTHS

At FY 86 disposition rate, months
necessary to dispose of:

	<u>FY 86 filings</u>	<u>Cases pending 6/30/86</u>
SUPREME COURT		
All cases	11.7	7.3
Civil appeals only	9.7	11.1
COURT OF APPEALS		
All cases	10.3	6.8
Felony merit appeals only	10.5	11.1
Misdemeanor merit appeals only	11.6	6.9
Sentence appeals only	9.2	4.3

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE VII

RECAPITULATION - FISCAL YEAR 1986

	<u>MERIT APPEALS</u>				<u>SENTENCE APPEALS</u>				<u>PETITIONS</u>			<u>ORIGINAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District Superior	Direct from District via Superior	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District Superior	Direct from District via Superior	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District Superior	From District via Superior	APPLICATIONS	
Beginning	264	78			115	9	15	4				1	486
Transferred from Supreme Court	2												2
Transferred to Supreme Court	2						2						4
Filed	216	120			139	18	42	30	1		10	1	576
Reinstated	8				1		1						10
Converted (net) ^a		-3			-1			4					0
Corrected (net) ^b	2				-2		1					+1	+2
Closed	255	124			186	20	55	34			8	2	684
Ending	235	71			66	7	2	4			2	1	388

^aBy action of the court or the parties, cases are occasionally converted from one type to another. These figures represent the net of all such changes during 1986.

^bThis category includes cases erroneously misclassified at the time they were filed. These figures represent the net of all such corrections during 1986.

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE VIII

DISPOSITIONS - FISCAL YEAR 1986

	MERIT APPEALS			SENTENCE APPEALS			PETITIONS			ORIGINAL APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior		
DISPOSITIONS											
PUBLISHED OPINION											
Affirmed	33	16		13			2				64
Reversed or vacated	31	4		14	2		2	2			55
Affirmed in part/ Reversed in part	8	1					1				10
Other	15	7		3			7				32
Total	87	28		30	2		12	2			161
SUMMARILY ON MERITS											
Affirmed	92	68		100	11						271
Reversed or vacated	22	4		10	2		2		1		41
Affirmed in part/ Reversed in part	3			4							7
Other	22	10		14	2		4	4		1	57
Total	139	82		128	15		6	4	1	1	376
TOTAL ON MERITS	226	110		158	17		18	6	1	1	537
PETITION DENIALS											
							33	26	7		66
DISMISSALS											
Stipulated or by Appellant	12	8		26	2		1	1		1	51
Motion of Appellee	1			1							2
Sua sponte	16	6		1	1		3	1			28
TOTAL NOT ON MERITS	29	14		28	3		37	28	7	1	147
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	255	124		186	20		55	34	8	2	684

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

TABLE IX

HISTORICAL^a

	<u>1982-83</u>	<u>1983-84</u>	<u>1984-85</u>	<u>1985-86</u>
A. FILINGS ^b				
Merit Appeals	343	312	287	346
Sentence Appeals	164	150	158	158
Petitions	74	64	60	83
Originals	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	584	531	506	588
B. DISPOSITIONS ^c				
Merit Appeals	347	276	283	381
Sentence Appeals	171	168	122	206
Petitions	72	77	55	99
Originals	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	594	526	461	688
C. DISPOSITIONS				
On Merits	466	402	340	541
Petitions & Originals	53	50	40	66
Denied				
Dismissals	<u>75</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>81</u>
TOTAL	594	526	461	688
D. OPINIONS PUBLISHED	169	120	103	149
MEMORANDUM OPINION & JUDGMENTS and SUMMARY DISPOSITIONS	255	242	238	337
E. PENDING END OF YEAR				
Merit Appeals	322	350	342	306
Sentence Appeals	96	82	124	72
Petitions	18	11	19	8
Originals	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	436	443	486	387

^aThe figures for cases pending at the end of one year plus the next year's filings minus dispositions do not always equal cases pending at the end of the following year due to reclassification and corrections. See footnotes a and b to Table I.

^bIncludes reinstatements and transfers from the supreme court.

^cIncludes transfers to the supreme court.

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

Table X

Reasons for Cases Pending - June 30, 1986

	<u>MERIT APPEALS</u>				<u>SENTENCE APPEALS</u>				<u>PETITIONS</u>			<u>ORIGINAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	From District via Superior	Direct from Superior	Direct from District via Superior	From District	Direct from Superior	Direct from District	Direct from District via Superior	From District		APPLICATIONS	
Awaiting record	102	13		10						1		1	127
Awaiting briefs	74	32		24		6			4				140
Awaiting hearing/ submission	6	3		3									12
With central staff													0
Not with central staff													0
Awaiting draft disposition	27	10		14									51
Draft disposition circulating	7	2		2		1							12
Awaiting decision on granting petition								1					1
Decision on Rehearing	9	8		10				1					28
Stayed or remanded	10	3		3							1		17
TOTAL:	235	71		66		7		2	4	2		1	388

ALASKA COURT OF APPEALS

LENGTH OF TIME TO DISPOSITION - TABLE XI

Average Number of Days (Cases Counted)

Appeals Closed by Opinion or Memorandum Opinion & Judgment

	<u>Fiscal Year 1986</u>					<u>Fiscal Year 1985</u>		
	Felony Merit (Cases Counted)	Misdemeanor Merit (Cases Counted)	Felony Sentence (Cases Counted)	Misdemeanor Sentence (Cases Counted)	Felony Merit	Misdemeanor Merit (Cases Averaged)	Felony Sentence	Misdemeanor Sentence
Notice of Appeal to Record Certification	83 (214)	21 (109)	20 (157)	17 (19)	100	29	28	23
Record certification to Last Brief	185 (213)	94 (108)	75 (157)	105 (19)	140	88	64	90
Last Brief to Argument or Submission	44 (210)	38 (107)	13 (157)	-5 (19)	65	64	18	11
Argument or Submission to Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation	95 (201)	79 (92)	79 (152)	49 (18)	105	86	89	71
Circulation of Draft Opinion or Recommendation to Publication	57 (205)	47 (93)	41 (152)	43 (18)	52	48	45	32
Publication to Closing	24 (215)	25 (109)	20 (157)	20 (19)	25	24	18	16
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS	490 (215)	309 (109)	248 (157)	229 (19)	487 (159)	339 (86)	262 (92)	243 (13)
Lowest Number of Days	46	116	94	88	129	90	69	119
Tenth Percentile	273	150	134	88	-	-	-	-
Median Number of Days	463	271	234	217	-	-	-	-
Ninetieth Percentile	771	530	389	385	-	-	-	-
Highest Number of Days	1327	622	695	407	885	657	585	518

YEAR IN REVIEW

YEAR IN REVIEW

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Year In Review

During FY 86, the court system continued its efforts to increase efficiency and lower costs. When the FY 87 budget was finalized early in 1986, the court system initiated cost-saving measures to absorb a projected budget deficit of approximately \$2,000,000. In June, judicial branch employees were informed that all merit salary increases would be suspended. On July 1 the court system responded to falling oil prices and a significant decline in state revenue by eliminating plans for improved leased facilities in several court locations and by establishing a 30-day hiring freeze for all non-essential vacant positions. Funding for travel and conferences was decreased, and use of pro tem judges held to a minimum.

As revenue projections continued to decline, the supreme court ordered additional measures to further curtail expenditures. These measures, which have been in effect since July 17, 1986, include:

1. A complete hiring freeze. If positions must be filled on an emergency basis, temporary rather than permanent employees will be selected, thus saving the cost of state benefits for permanent employees, and allowing the court flexibility if further personnel adjustments must be made.
2. Cancellation of virtually all training programs, including statewide conferences for clerks, deputy magistrates and judges, and judicial training at the National Judicial College.

3. Possible implementation of an optional 30-hour work week for those employees who are in positions which could accommodate a 30-hour schedule.
4. Implementation of a voluntary leave without pay program, which allows employees to take up to 10 days leave without pay within one year.
5. Intense scrutiny of all travel requests.
6. Formation of employee committees to recommend further cost-saving ideas and programs.

In addition, the court directed the administrative director and his staff to examine all policies and procedures relating to juror utilization and compensation and to recommend even deeper cuts in such areas as travel, equipment, leasehold, supplies and pro tem appointments.

However, increased operational costs in some areas could not be avoided. In Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority, the United States Supreme Court decided that provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act are applicable to state employees. The court system was required to determine which positions are covered by the act (non-exempt positions) and which are not (executive, administrative and professional positions). Under the new law non-exempt employees who work more than 37.5 hours but less than 40 hours receive compensation at their regular hourly rate or compensatory time off on an hour for hour basis. For hours worked in excess of 40, employees must receive compensation

at one and one-half times their basic hourly wage or must be given compensatory time at the rate of one and one-half times the hours worked up to 240 hours. These provisions have had a substantial impact on the court system because of the number of employees who are expected to work after hours, such as in-court deputies.

The seven-month, eight-count murder trial in State of Alaska vs. John Kenneth Peel had an extraordinary impact on court expenditures. Although the cost of trials is a normal component of the court system budget, special arrangements, including some remodeling of the courtroom in which the case was tried, had to be made to accommodate this lengthy trial. A mistrial was declared after the jury was unable to reach a verdict in August 1986. If the Department of Law chooses to re-try the case, it is scheduled to commence in Ketchikan in January 1987.

Legislative Changes

Cost increases resulting from legislative changes adopted in FY 86 will not become evident until FY 87. For example, small claims filings are expected to increase as a result of Chapter 3, effective July 1, 1986, which increased small claims jurisdiction from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Legislative attempts to address alcohol problems in outlying areas (Chapter 80, effective September 3, 1986) will also have a fiscal impact. This act establishes a procedure for communities to ban possession of alcoholic beverages, with a maximum penalty of \$1,000 and forfeiture of the beverage. Community work may be performed in lieu of a fine. The supreme court is required to establish a bail forfeiture schedule so that these matters can be handled without a court appearance. Al-

though the act will not greatly increase the number of trials held in rural courts, these courts will be required to process citations as well as bail forfeiture amounts, resulting in additional clerical costs.

The nationwide effort to reform the tort system occupied considerable legislative attention in Alaska during the 1986 legislative session. Although proponents predicted an overall positive economic effect due to decreased insurance rates, substantive provisions of the legislation will result in added costs for the courts.

Under Chapter 139, effective June 11, 1986, noneconomic damages are capped at \$500,000. Punitive damages may be allowed only on a showing of clear and convincing evidence. Verdicts must be itemized, and future economic damages must be reduced to the present value unless the parties agree otherwise. Periodic payments can be ordered at the request of the injured party. The liability of directors of nonprofit organizations, hospitals and governing bodies is limited. A procedure is established for introducing evidence of collateral benefits. Joint and several liability is retained except that a party allocated less than 50% of the fault may not be liable for more than twice the party's percentage of fault. Finally, attorney fees cannot be awarded in civil actions for injury, death or property damages unless the case is contested without trial or is fully contested.

In anticipation of a decreased rate of settlement in tort cases resulting from these substantive changes, the 1986 legislature appropriated additional funding for pro tem judges to handle expected increases in motions and trials.

The 1986 Alaska Legislature enacted two measures suggested by the court system as ways to save on expenditures.

Under previous law, proceedings for extradition of fugitives could be handled by judges only. Under Chapter 12, effective July 10, 1986, magistrates can now conduct these proceedings. This change permits flexible use of judicial personnel and will save transportation costs in outlying areas since the magistrate on the scene can now handle such matters.

Chapter 100, effective September 4, 1986, saves costs by streamlining court procedures for appeals of contract claims against the state. Previously, a person who wished to contest a hearing officer's decision on a contract claim was automatically entitled to a trial. Under the amended law, the court has the discretion to permit either an administrative appeal on the record or a new trial if circumstances warrant. Since trials are longer and more costly for both litigants and the court, an administrative appeal is a more efficient use of court time in reviewing these matters.

Cost Saving Measures in the Trial Courts

Individual trial courts implemented a variety of programs and procedures designed to save costs. In Fairbanks, bench time statistics and case tracking procedures have been refined through use of a Displaywriter and minicomputer in the calendaring department. Fairbanks also inventoried all exhibits and depositions and reorganized its deposition area and evidence vault. All current exhibit and deposition records in Fairbanks are now kept up to date on a Displaywriter program designed specifically for this purpose.

The second district has been fully automated since FY 83. This has allowed the second district trial courts to curtail personnel growth while absorbing an annual increase in case filings of up to 17%. In particular, use of computer-generated judgments in misdemeanor cases has eliminated time-consuming manual preparation of these high-volume forms.

In Anchorage, the site of the state's highest volume superior court, implementation of a "fast track" system for processing civil cases has led to speedier resolution of shorter, less complicated cases (those in which trials of one to 10 days are anticipated). These cases are assigned to designated "fast track" judges and may be tried either before a jury or a judge. Domestic relations matters are not included in the fast track system. Although significant time was spent at the outset reviewing all civil cases to determine whether they should be referred to the fast track, initial assessments indicate great success in speeding the civil trial calendar.

Cost Savings in Court Administration

Several statewide projects commenced in FY 86 will result in greater savings and improved efficiency for both courts and the public.

Venue Map

Under AS 22.10.130, adopted in FY 85, the supreme court was given the responsibility as of January 1, 1986 to set venue for all actions. The administrative office coordinated the development of a venue map which expedites the process of determining where cases may be tried. While development of the venue map does not directly

save budgeted funds, use of the map saves time and attendant costs for the courts and for attorneys who no longer must undertake a timeconsuming analysis to determine proper venue.

Letter-Size Paper

Beginning May 1, 1986, the court system followed the lead of the federal courts and converted to letter-size rather than legal-size paper. As of that date documents of either size may be filed with the court. On January 1, 1988, all pleadings and most other documents must be on letter-size paper.

Although there will be short-term transition costs, significant long-term savings will be generated through decreased costs for paper, file folders, file cabinets and other file storage equipment.

Efficient Library Management

The court system's seventeen law libraries are maintained for the use of the judiciary, members of the bar and the general public. Funding for new acquisitions was extremely limited in FY 86, and there were no substantial purchases of legal materials. Staff monitored existing subscriptions carefully to determine if some subscriptions could be cancelled.

A major development at the Anchorage Law Library was the implementation of the DYNIX automated library system. The most visible change has been the conversion from a traditional card catalog to an online public catalog. Users can immediately obtain detailed information by accessing the library's collection through computer searches. The system requires relatively little staff effort compared to the ongoing filing

necessary to maintain an up-to-date card catalog. Circulation and cataloging modules were also installed. When fully operational, the system will handle serials check-in and claiming as well as acquisitions. Much of the labor intensive clerical work currently needed to manage the collection will be performed by the automated system. At some point in the future the library collections in Fairbanks, Juneau, and Ketchikan could be accessed through terminals at those locations.

Anchorage staff continued to monitor library operations by collecting statistics on collection growth as well as reference and interlibrary loan activity. Reference activity exceeded the previous fiscal year, with staff handling 12,875 in-person and telephone inquiries compared to 11,660 during the prior year. As in previous years, it appears that library use by the general public accounted for a substantial number of inquiries.

The Anchorage Law Library serves as the state's most comprehensive legal collection and maintains an active interlibrary loan program to share resources with the branch libraries. During the year, 824 items were supplied from the Anchorage collection and 138 items were borrowed for Alaska patrons. Most of the interstate activity takes place with other law libraries in the Pacific Northwest which have the capability to communicate requests through WLN's interlibrary loan subsystem. These networks reduce costs by eliminating duplicate collections of infrequently-used resource materials.

Training for New Recording Equipment

During FY 86 the new Gyyr recording equipment was installed in several court locations. Development of a manual and extensive hands-on training were required to explain the operation of this completely new equipment to in-court clerks. Rather than hire independent consultants, administrative staff prepared the instruction manual and conducted all training.

In-Court Clerks' Manual

In November 1985 a new manual of standard procedures for in-court clerks was distributed to all courts. The manual describes what should be included in the log notes which clerks write during court proceedings. It also explains other in-court clerk duties such as court room preparation, handling exhibits, jurors and witnesses, giving oaths and care of tapes and tape recorders. By standardizing log note format, the manual will save time for everyone who uses these notes (judges, lawyers, transcribers and clerks).

More Efficient Court Facilities

The Alaska Court System maintains court facilities in 57 locations across the state. These facilities range from multi-million dollar court complexes in metropolitan areas to one-room offices in rural locations. During FY 86 the court system continued to upgrade its facilities in some court locations by leasing new or improved space and by remodeling existing structures. However, leasehold and remodeling improvements were substantially curtailed or eliminated in anticipation of the projected decline in state revenues.

- First District -

In January 1986 a superior courtroom in Ketchikan was remodeled on short notice to accommodate the Peel trial. Also in January the court system completed lease arrangements for 180 square feet of office space in the new state-funded public safety building in Pelican.

Court personnel in Petersburg took occupancy under a ten-year lease of 5,000 square feet of new space on May 23, 1986. This facility includes space for superior court trials as well as a multi-purpose hearing room, a jury deliberation room, judge's chambers, a magistrate's office, a clerk's general office with public counter, three storage rooms, two witness/attorney conference rooms, a law library and a multi-purpose office.

- Second District -

In February 1986 the court system began leasing approximately 400 square feet of office and hearing room space in the Tigara Corporation Office Building in Point Hope. Before this time, the magistrate was sharing space with the local police department.

In March the existing smokestack on the Kotzebue courthouse was extended to prevent combustion fumes from entering the courthouse on windy days. Also, planning and design work was completed to remodel existing offices to provide 1,500 square feet of new hearing room space.

- Third District -

Anchorage

Ever-increasing numbers of case files and litigants required creative remodeling of the cramped

Anchorage courthouse, including relocation of five major departments.

In November 1985 the records department moved to the basement, and the clerk's office moved into the vacated space. In December a new centralized tape archives was created in the basement of the Boney Building to store original audio tapes from courts throughout the state. The micrographics department, which is responsible for microfilming all old case files from statewide court locations, was also expanded. The jury clerk's office relocated to provide separate space for jurors who smoke. Finally, the small claims department was moved closer to the clerk's office.

Planning for an upgrade of the existing telephone system at the Anchorage courthouse complex was completed in June 1986. This upgrade will permit the use of "smart" phones in strategic locations, provide a data port for an accounting system, and allow for the automatic rebooting of the computer after power outages, all of which will increase the efficiency of court operations.

In a long-awaited move which will ultimately relieve severe overcrowding in the state's largest court, on June 30, 1986, the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission approved the court system's request to expand the existing courthouse. The expansion will add over 300,000 square feet of floor space, including 7,000 square feet of retail space along 4th Avenue. Two separated skywalks will bridge I Street. The project will include underground parking and will complement pedestrian improvements already planned by the municipality for 4th Avenue.

The commission found that the court system had supplied proof that all geotechnical concerns will be adequately addressed through the development of structural design criteria and subsequent municipal reviews of engineering for the structure.

The Municipality of Anchorage has indicated a willingness to issue bonds for the project, with funding through annual lease appropriations by the legislature. The legislature authorized the court system to enter into such a lease/ purchase agreement in 1984 (Chapter 78, SLA 1984).

The Palmer courthouse faces overcrowding comparable to Anchorage despite its relatively smaller size. In October 1985 the court system leased an additional 175 square feet of storage space to release badly needed space for daily operations.

- Fourth District -

On July 1, 1985, the court system began a three-year lease of 230 square feet of office space in the McGrath city hall building. In July 1985 the magistrate post in Hooper Bay was relocated to Scammon Bay. Lease negotiations for office space in the Scammon Bay public safety building were completed in January 1986. On February 2, 1986, the magistrate in St. Marys moved out of the leased space because the furnace had broken down. The City of St. Marys installed a new furnace and court operations resumed at that location in May. In June a contract was executed for the remodeling of the traffic department in the Fairbanks courthouse; work completion is scheduled for October 1986. On June 5, 1986, the court system began leasing 350 square feet of office and hearing room space in Selawik.

New Rules

Effective July 1, 1985, the supreme court revised the media plan to permit media coverage of court proceedings at the judge's discretion rather than permitting defendants to veto coverage. This change has greatly increased broadcast coverage of trial proceedings. The Judicial Council will be issuing a report to the supreme court in FY 87 evaluating the impact of this change.

A court rule was developed outlining procedures for review of the work of pro tem judges. The rule establishes an in-house review of these judges' work as well as a complaint procedure.

During FY 86 the rules revisor and the supreme court reviewed local orders issued by courts to determine if such orders are consistent with requirements set forth in the court rules and if the contents of these local orders should have statewide application.

Affirmative Action

The court system's affirmative action plan is a means of attracting, hiring and retaining minority employees. The plan is developed and monitored by the personnel office. Quarterly statistical reports are produced to measure and track the court system's progress in reaching its goals.

The minimum hiring goals in FY 86 were 59 Alaska Natives, 18 blacks, 3 Asian/Pacific Islanders and 5 employees classified as Other Minorities. The hiring goals were exceeded for all racial categories except Alaska Natives. The personnel staff maintains a positive and active outreach program to increase the number of Alaska Native employees.

At the end of FY 86, 474 non-judicial personnel were employed by the Alaska Court System. The racial composition of the workforce included 391 Caucasians (82.5%), 33

Quarter Ending June, 1986

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

I. SUMMARY: CLASSIFIED AND NON-JUDICIAL EMPLOYEES

MALE														FEMALE				
Ranges	Total Employees	Total Female	Total Minority	Caucasian	Alaska Native	Black	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other	Caucasian	Alaska Native	Black	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other					
6 & 8	72	63	19	7	0	2	0	0	46	6	7	0	4					
10	117	105	22	9	1	1	0	1	86	10	5	1	3					
12	137	134	28	3	0	0	0	0	106	11	10	2	5					
13 & 14	42	39	10	1	0	2	0	0	31	4	2	1	1					
15 - 20	34	26	2	8	0	0	0	0	24	1	0	0	1					
21 & Above	34	14	2	19	0	0	1	0	13	0	1	0	0					
Law Clerk	38	20	0	18	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0					
Total Employees	474	401	83	65	1	5	1	1	326	32	25	4	14					

TOTAL VACANCIES: 31
GRAND TOTAL: 505

II. Percentage of Court System Population by Race

Caucasian	82.5
Alaska Native	7.0
Black	6.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.0
Other	3.2

III. All Justices and Judges

All Filled Positions:	53
Alaska Natives:	1
Caucasian:	51
Other:	1
(Females: 8)	

IV. Magistrate Positions

All Filled Positions:	44
Alaska Natives:	13
Caucasian:	29
Others:	2
(Females: 19)	

Alaska Natives (7.0%), 30 Blacks (6.3%), 5 Asian/Pacific Islanders (1.0%) and 15 classified as Other Minorities (3.2%). These 83 minorities comprise 17.5% of the non-judicial workforce.

During FY 86, 144 positions were filled. New hires filled 107 of the positions and 37 positions were filled by promotion. Of the newly-hired employees, there were 89 Caucasians, 10 Alaska Natives, 6 Blacks and 2 employees classified as Other Minorities. There were 28 Caucasians, 3 Alaska Natives, 4 Blacks and 2 employees classified as Other Minorities who were promoted.

Women comprised 86% of the non-judicial workforce. They filled 93% of the first-line supervisory positions, 76% of the professional positions, 53% of the law clerk positions and 41% of the managerial positions.

In Memoriam

On October 4, 1985, friends, relatives and colleagues from around the state gathered in Juneau to honor and remember John Dimond, who was the supreme court's senior justice when he died on June 28, 1985. Speakers described Justice Dimond as a man of wisdom, integrity, courage, perseverance, kindness, a true humanist, and a man with a wonderful sense of humor. A future edition of the Alaska Reporter will be dedicated to the memory of Justice Dimond and will include a transcript of the ceremony. The Juneau Bar Association and the Alaska Bar Foundation will establish a scholarship program for law students, or a fund to support continuing legal education and research, in the name of John Dimond. As a lasting tribute, the state court building in Juneau was officially named the John H. Dimond Courthouse.

TRIAL COURTS STATISTICAL SUMMARY — FY 86

This section of the annual report summarizes FY 86 trial court statistics. Comprehensive statistical tables describing the superior and district court caseloads in FY 86 are located in the statistical supplement at the back of this report. Any questions about caseloads may be directed to the administrative office of the Alaska Court System.

In FY 86 the superior court caseload decreased by 3% as did the

number of cases filed in the district court. However, this 3% decrease in district court filings masks an actual increase in district court workload because non-traffic matters (which require significantly more judicial and clerical resources) increased by 2% while traffic filings decreased by 6%.

Table I summarizes the number of cases filed in each superior and higher volume district court location in FY 86.

TABLE I
ALASKA TRIAL COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 86
7/1/85 - 6/30/86

--SUPERIOR COURTS--			*-----DISTRICT COURTS-----*				*-----TOTALS-----*		
Court		% of	Non-	(1)		% of		% of	
Location	Filings	S.C. Total	Traffic Filings	Traffic Filings	Total	D.C. Total	Total Filings	State Total	

Anchorage	11,169	53.0%	22,695	45,970	68,665	50.2%	79,834	50.6%	
Barrow	284	1.3%	485	236	721	.5%	1,005	.6%	
Bethel	559	2.6%	1,111	765	1,876	1.4%	2,435	1.5%	
Cordova			393	104	497	.4%	497	.3%	
Craig			497	210	707	.5%	707	.4%	
Delta Jct.			226	323	549	.4%	549	.3%	
Dillingham			582	192	774	.6%	774	.5%	
Fairbanks	3,112	14.8%	5,808	9,043	14,851	10.9%	17,963	11.4%	
Glennallen			314	214	528	.4%	528	.3%	
Healy			97	685	782	.6%	782	.5%	
Homer			1,026	1,070	2,096	1.5%	2,096	1.3%	
Juneau	1,167	5.5%	3,739	4,203	7,942	5.8%	9,109	5.8%	
Kenai	1,096	5.2%	2,664	4,960	7,624	5.6%	8,720	5.5%	
Ketchikan	714	3.4%	1,643	2,279	3,922	2.9%	4,636	2.9%	
Kodiak	490	2.3%	1,060	1,746	2,806	2.0%	3,296	2.1%	
Kotzebue	368	1.7%	755	190	945	.7%	1,313	.8%	
Nome	404	1.9%	739	285	1,024	.7%	1,428	.9%	
Palmer	1,118	5.3%	3,274	6,538	9,812	7.2%	10,930	6.9%	
Seward			649	1,705	2,354	1.7%	2,354	1.5%	
Sitka	314	1.5%	688	992	1,680	1.2%	1,994	1.3%	
Tok			236	517	753	.5%	753	.5%	
Unalaska			271	77	348	.3%	348	.2%	
Valdez	105	0.5%	351	187	538	.4%	643	.4%	
Wrangell/	171	0.8%	442	199	641	.5%	812	.5%	
Petersburg	(2)		419	271	690	.5%	690	.4%	
Subtotal	21,071	100.0%	50,164	82,961	133,125	97.4%	154,196	97.8%	
Lower Volume Courts	-	-	2,757	783	3,540	2.6%	3,540	2.2%	
TOTALS	21,071	100.0%	52,921	83,744	136,665	100%	157,736	100.0%	

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FIRST	2,366	11.2%	8,216	8,360	16,576	12.1%	18,942	12.1%	
SECOND	1,056	5.0%	2,274	711	2,985	2.2%	4,041	2.6%	
THIRD	13,978	66.3%	33,905	62,845	96,750	70.8%	110,728	70.1%	
FOURTH	3,671	17.4%	8,526	11,828	20,354	14.9%	24,025	15.3%	

(1) Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.

(2) Wrangell & Petersburg operate a combined superior court but separate district courts.

SUPERIOR COURT

Jurisdiction

The superior court is the trial court of general jurisdiction, with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. Appeals to the superior court from final judgments of the district court are a matter of right. The superior court has exclusive jurisdiction in all domestic relations matters, children's proceedings, probate, guardianship and civil commitments.¹

FY 85 Caseload - Superior Courts

Table II summarizes FY 86 case filings and dispositions for each superior court location. On a statewide level, the number of cases filed in superior courts decreased by 3% from FY 85. Total dispositions increased by 1%. While cases are still being filed in the state's superior courts at a rate faster than available judicial resources can decide them, this marks the third year that overall dispositions have increased from the preceding year. The ratio of "cases disposed of" to "cases filed" for FY 86 was 89%.

¹For more information about superior court jurisdiction, see Profile, *supra*.

TABLE II
SUPERIOR COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 86
7/1/85 - 6/30/86

Court	FY 86 Filings	FY 86 Dispositions	Percent Change in Filings From FY85	Ratio of Dispositions to Filings FY85 FY86	
Anchorage	11,619	9,003	- 4%	82%	81%
Barrow	284	334	0%	75%	118%
Bethel	559	501	+19%	99%	90%
Fairbanks	3,112	3,566	-10%	105%	115%
Juneau	1,167	909	- 4%	81%	78%
Kenai	1,096	1,131	+18%	94%	103%
Ketchikan	714	641	-12%	76%	90%
Kodiak	490	441	+ 8%	64%	90%
Kotzebue	368	330	+40%	114%	90%
Nome	404	392	+22%	80%	97%
Palmer	1,118	877	- 3%	72%	78%
Sitka	314	318	- 2%	104%	101%
Valdez	105	70	-20%	73%	67%
Wrangell/(1) Petersburg	171	193	-22%	84%	113%
TOTALS	21,071	18,706	- 3%	86%	89%

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2,366	2,061	- 8%	82%	87%
Second	1,056	1,056	+20%	88%	100%
Third	13,978	11,522	- 2%	81%	82%
Fourth	3,671	4,067	- 6%	105%	111%

(1) Wrangell & Petersburg operate a combined superior court but separate district courts.

TABLE III
SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
FY 83 - FY 86

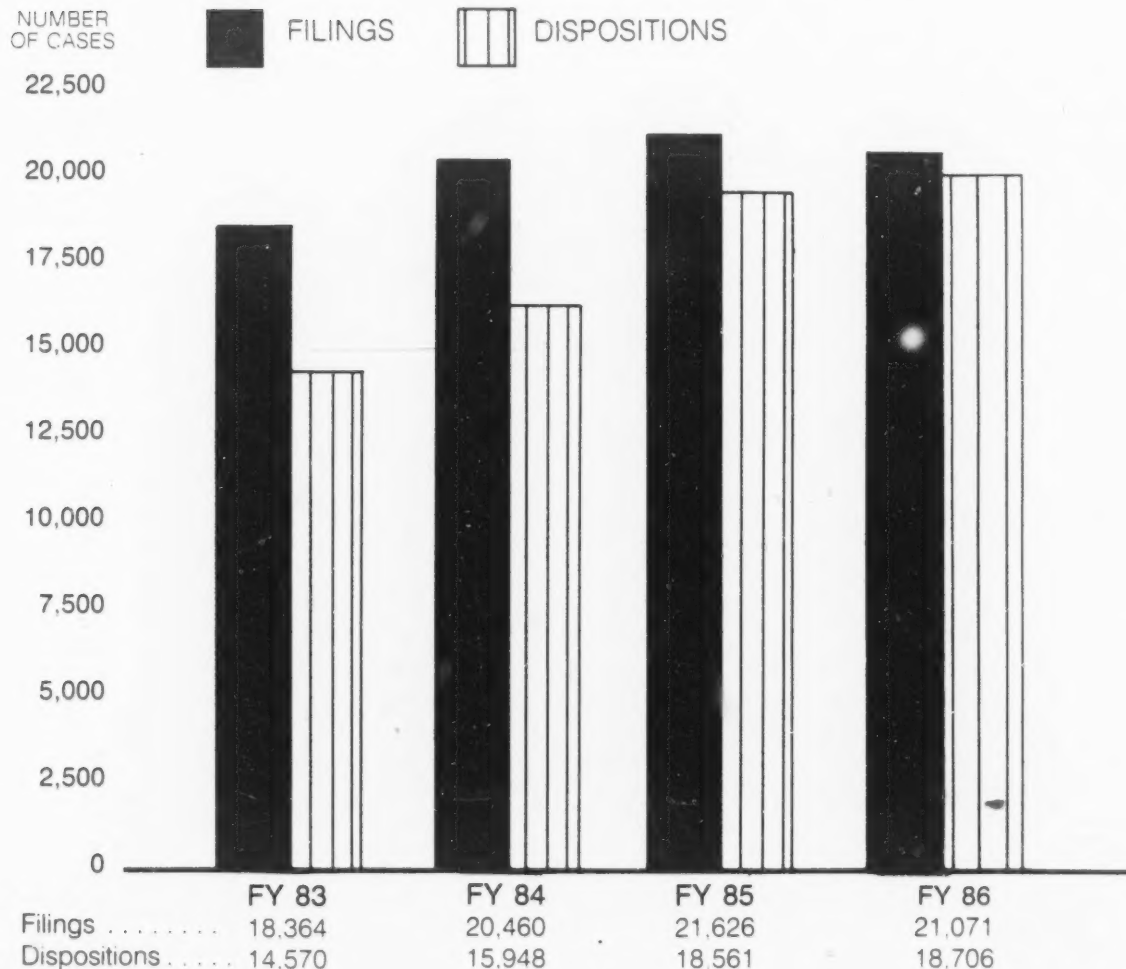


Table III shows changes in superior court filings and dispositions since FY 83. Total filings have increased by 15% and total dispositions have increased by 28%.

Table IV analyzes the types of cases filed in superior court during FY 86. The largest category of superior court cases continues to be domestic relations, with 41% of total case filings.

Within the general category of domestic relations, domestic violence cases make up 28% of the domestic relations workload and approximately 11% of the overall superior court workload. Domestic violence case filings for FY 86 were 8% higher than FY 85.

Filings of felony cases in superior courts increased by 49% during FY 86. This increase is the product of actual increases in felony filings plus the effect of a change in how the court system is now counting felony case filings. In prior annual reports, felony case filings were listed for district courts and also superior courts. Starting with this annual report, felony cases will only be counted as superior court cases. In past years, felony cases that terminated in district court (e.g., reduction of charge to misdemeanor, prosecutorial dismissals, etc.) were not counted in superior courts. This year these cases are reflected in superior court filings and inflate the percentage differences in superior court filings between FY 85 and FY 86.

TABLE IV
SUPERIOR COURTS
CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 86

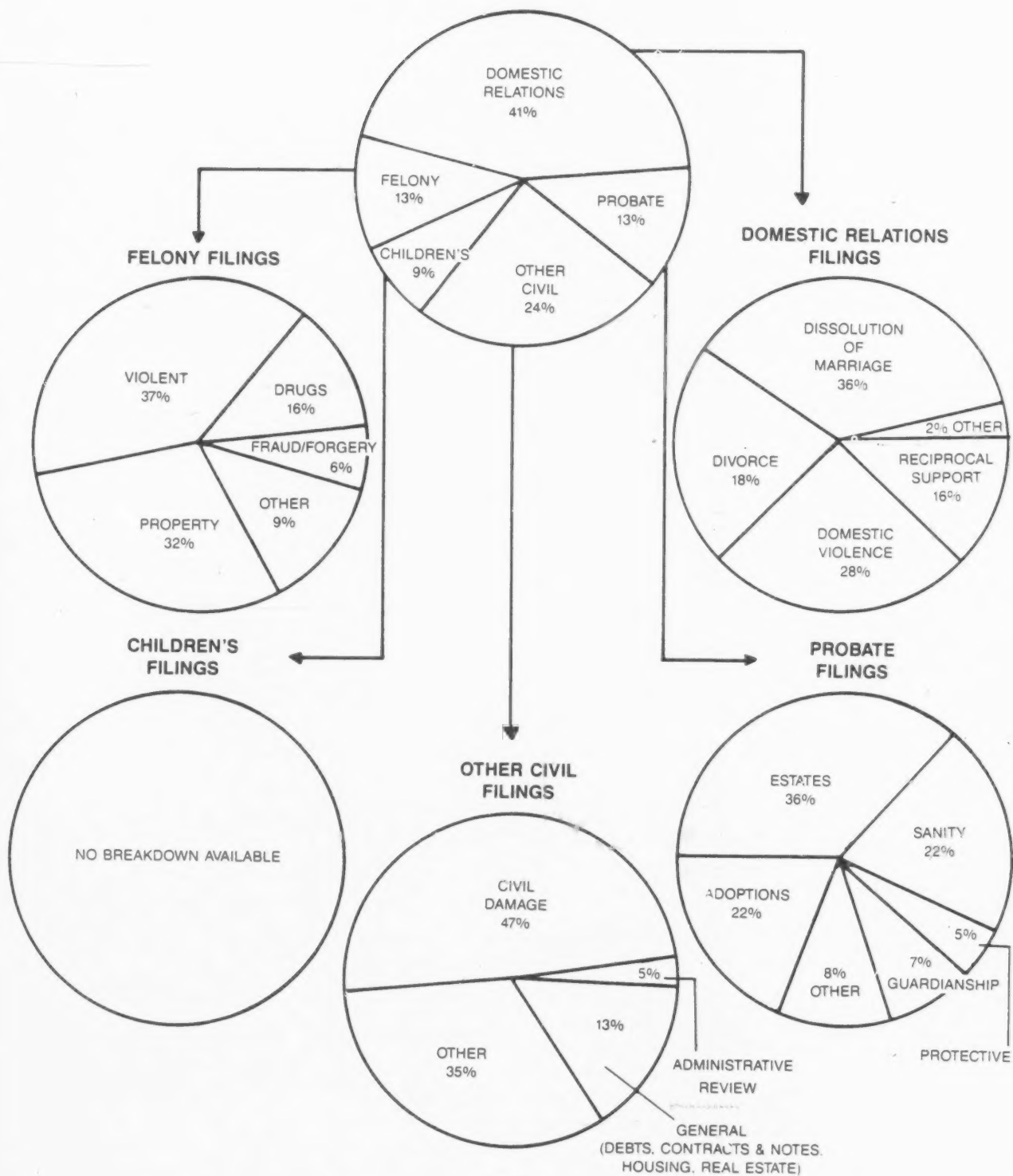


Table V shows the general composition of cases filed in superior courts since FY 83 based on the major categories of civil, criminal and children's proceedings.

Since FY 83, total civil case filings have increased by 8%, children's proceedings have increased by 27% and criminal (felony) case filings have increased by 65%.

TABLE V
SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF CASELOAD
FY 83 - FY 86

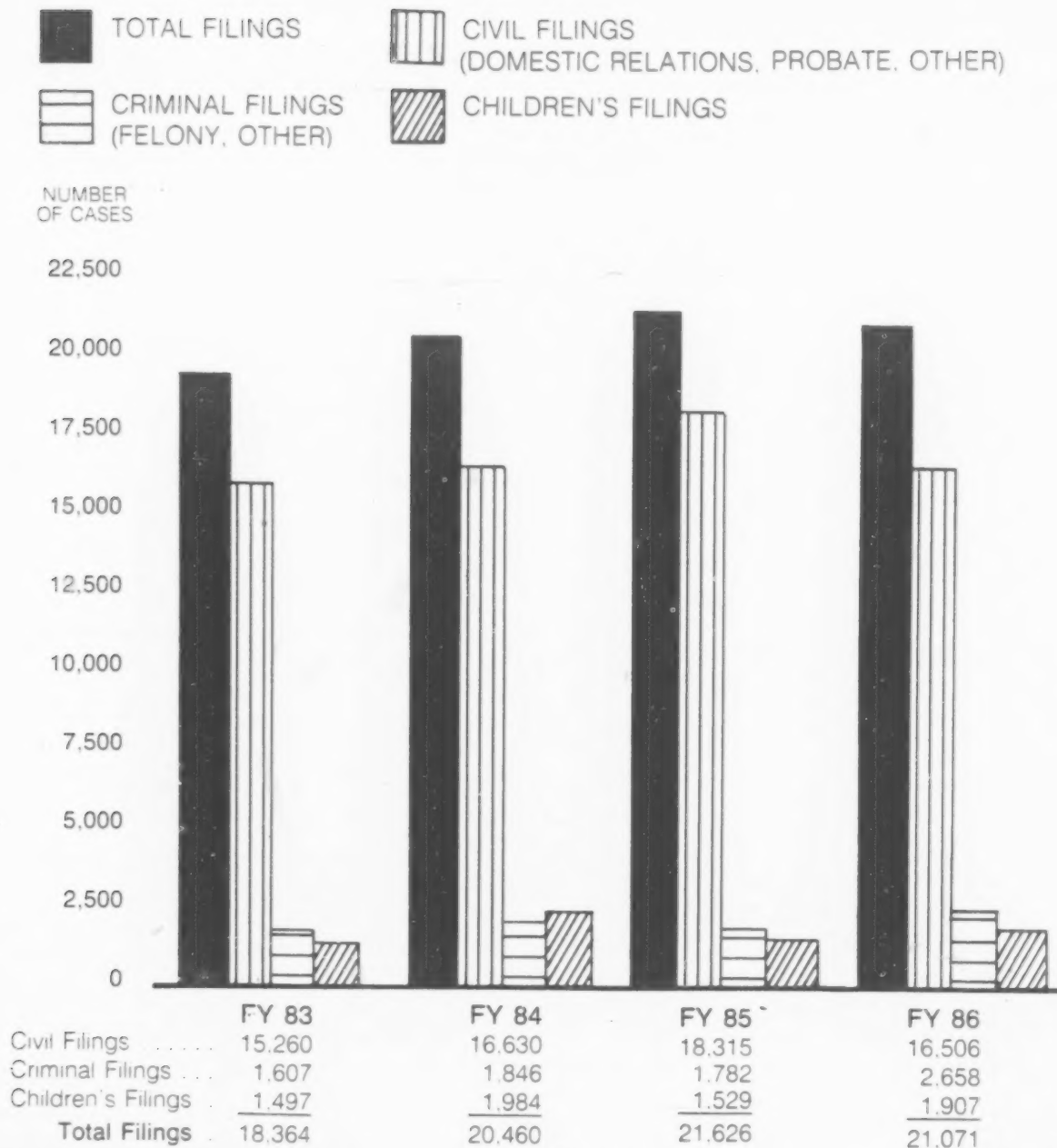
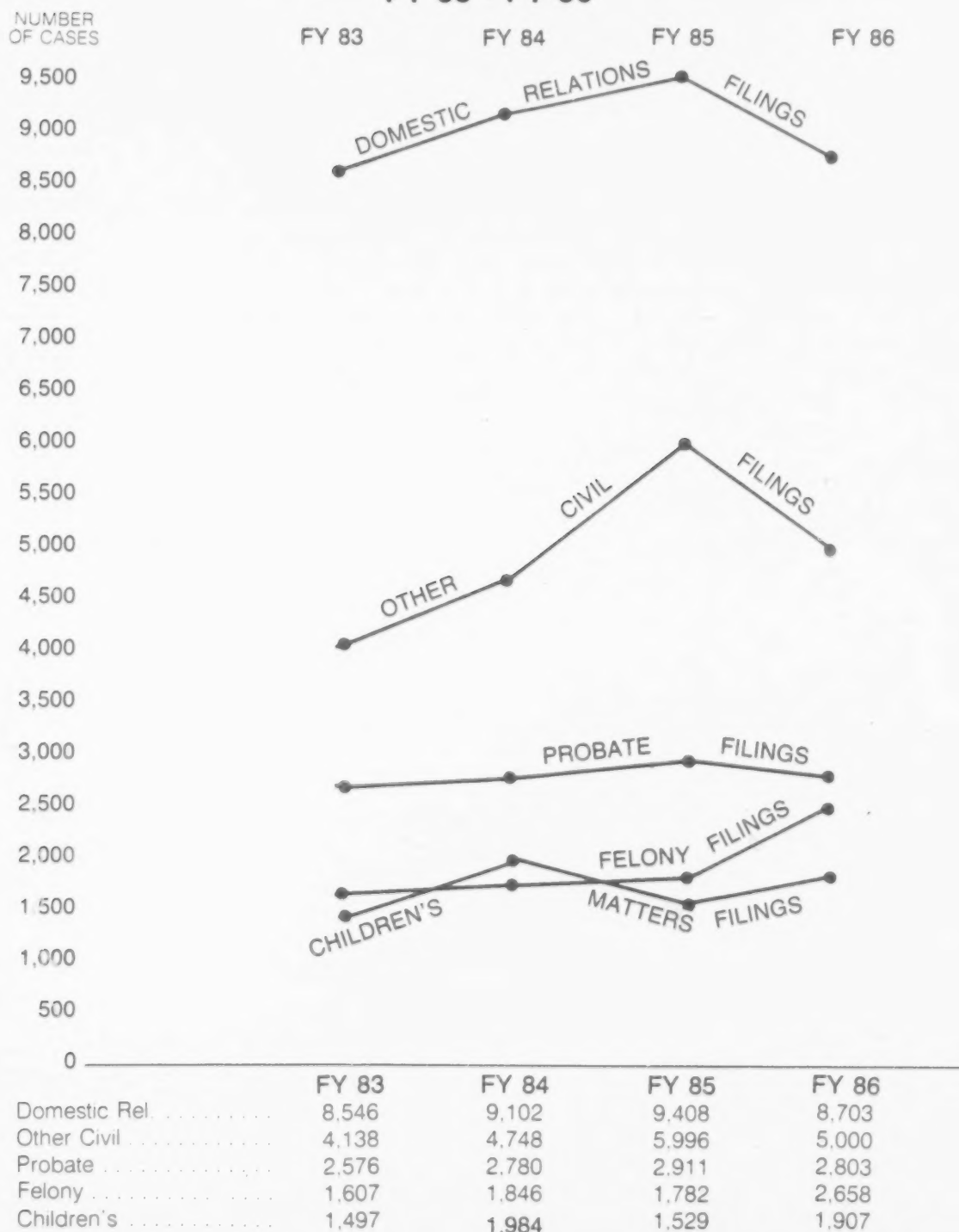


Table VI plots the changes in number of case filings for specific case types since FY 83: domestic relations (+ 2%), general civil

cases (+ 21%), probate (+ 9%), children's proceedings (+ 27%) and criminal (+ 65%).

TABLE VI
SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY CASE TYPE
FY 83 - FY 86



DISTRICT COURT

Jurisdiction

In criminal matters the district court has jurisdiction over state misdemeanor violations and violations of ordinances of political subdivisions. Prior to July 1, 1985, the district court could hear civil cases valued up to \$10,000 or up to \$15,000 in motor vehicle cases. Effective July 1, 1985, civil case jurisdiction in district courts increased to \$25,000. Also during FY 86, the district court was given authority to hear domestic violence cases.

Magistrate posts have been created in the smaller, generally rural areas of the state. They have also been established in metropolitan areas to handle routine matters and to ease the workload of the district court. In criminal matters, magistrates may give judgment of conviction upon a plea of guilty to any state misdemeanor, may try state misdemeanor cases if the defendant waives the right to a district court judge, and may hear municipal ordinance violations without consent of the accused. In formal civil cases, magistrates may award damages up to \$1,000 (in small claims cases up to \$2,000). Both of these maximum amounts increased to \$5,000 effective July 1, 1986. Magistrates have emergency authority in children's matters.¹

FY 83 Caseload - District Courts

District court statistics are separated into two categories: high and low volume courts. There are approximately 40 magistrates in locations that are identified as lower volume courts.

During FY 86, the statewide caseload in district courts decreased by approximately 3%. Non-traffic case filings increased by 2% but these numbers were offset by a 6% decrease in traffic citation filings. Table VII summarizes caseload statistics for district court locations in fiscal year 1986.

Special Note: Traffic Cases

Because traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until final disposition, the number of filings for traffic matters in a year understates the court's actual workload. Whenever filings data is required to assess the overall workload of the courts, traffic disposition data have been substituted for traffic filing data.

Special Note: Felony Cases

In prior annual reports felony case filings were listed for district courts and also for superior courts. District courts often create case files and hold initial custody/bail hearings for felony defendants, but do not have the jurisdiction to accept pleas or otherwise deal with felony matters. These "district court felonies" usually resulted in double counting felony cases (once in district court and once in superior court). Starting with this report, felony cases will only be counted as superior court cases. While this policy will deny some credit for work performed in the district courts, it will enable court system case filing statistics to be more comparable to statistics compiled by other justice agencies to determine the actual number of felony cases initiated each year. All multi-year tables and charts in this report have been revised to delete all district court felony data from prior year statistics. This allows multi-year comparisons that are based on the same caseload composition.

¹For more information about district court and magistrate jurisdiction, see Profile, supra.

TABLE VII
DISTRICT COURTS
CASELOAD SUMMARY FY 86
7/1/85 - 6/30/86

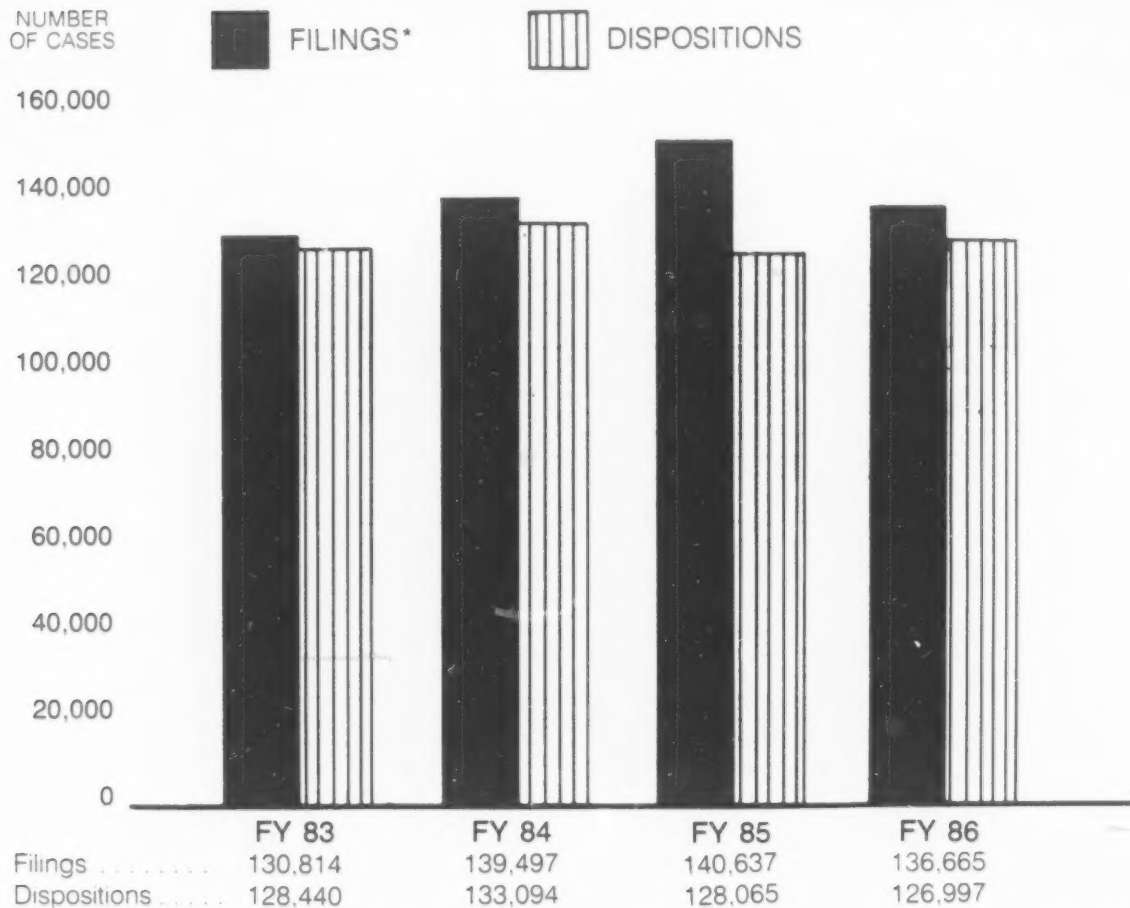
Court Location	* * * Non * Traffic * Filings	% Change From FY85	* * * (1) * Traffic * Filings	% Change From FY85	* * * Total * Filings	% Change From FY85	* * * Ratio * Disposed * to Filed	% FY85	% FY86
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
Anchorage	* 22,695	+ 3%	* 45,970	- 2%	* 68,665	- 1%	* 88%	89%	
Barrow	* 485	+ 9%	* 236	+258%	* 721	+36%	* 86%	30%	
Bethel	* 1,111	+ 4%	* 765	+75%	* 1,876	+25%	* 95%	95%	
Cordova	* 393	+26%	* 104	-40%	* 497	+ 3%	* 95%	84%	
Craig	* 497	+40%	* 210	-17%	* 707	+16%	* 95%	89%	
Delta Jct.	* 226	+18%	* 323	-40%	* 549	-25%	* 96%	87%	
Dillingham	* 582	- 1%	* 192	-10%	* 774	- 4%	* 93%	88%	
Fairbanks	* 5,808	+ 8%	* 9,043	+ 1%	* 14,851	+ 3%	* 94%	106%	
Glennallen	* 314	-25%	* 214	-51%	* 528	-38%	* 96%	94%	
Healy	* 97	-23%	* 685	+163%	* 782	+102%	* 90%	98%	
Homer	* 1,026	- 4%	* 1,070	-37%	* 2,096	-24%	* 89%	88%	
Juneau	* 3,739	-10%	* 4,203	+23%	* 7,942	+ 5%	* 87%	92%	
Kenai	* 2,664	- 2%	* 4,960	+ 4%	* 7,624	+ 2%	* 99%	98%	
Ketchikan	* 1,643	- 1%	* 2,279	-22%	* 3,922	-14%	* 96%	96%	
Kodiak	* 1,060	- 1%	* 1,746	-32%	* 2,806	-23%	* 101%	100%	
Kotzebue	* 755	-12%	* 190	+19%	* 945	- 7%	* 103%	103%	
Nome	* 739	+30%	* 285	+50%	* 1,024	+35%	* 86%	101%	
Palmer	* 3,274	- 4%	* 6,536	-19%	* 9,812	-14%	* 92%	95%	
Petersburg	* 419	+21%	* 271	+12%	* 690	+18%	* 104%	104%	
Seward	* 649	- 4%	* 1,705	-29%	* 2,354	-24%	* 99%	94%	
Sitka	* 688	-10%	* 992	-37%	* 1,680	-28%	* 103%	96%	
Tok	* 236	- 5%	* 517	-31%	* 753	-24%	* 96%	96%	
Unalaska	* 271	+13%	* 77	-54%	* 348	-14%	* 91%	82%	
Valdez	* 351	+ 8%	* 187	-52%	* 538	-24%	* 108%	88%	
Wrangell	* 442	+22%	* 199	-16%	* 641	+ 7%	* 85%	98%	
Subtotal	* 50,164	+ 1%	* 82,961	- 6%	* 133,125	- 3%	* 91%	93%	
Lower Volume Courts	* 2,757	+13%	* 783	+ 1%	* 3,540	+10%	* 74%	88%	
TOTALS	* 52,921	+ 2%	* 83,744	- 6%	* 136,665	- 3%	* 91%	93%	

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****
FIRST	* 8,216	- 2%	* 8,360	- 4%	* 16,576	- 3%	* 91%	93%	
SECOND	* 2,274	+ 5%	* 711	+68%	* 2,985	+15%	* 92%	103%	
THIRD	* 33,905	+ 1%	* 62,845	- 8%	* 96,750	- 5%	* 90%	91%	
FOURTH	* 8,526	+ 8%	* 11,828	+ 5%	* 20,354	+ 8%	* 93%	103%	
*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****

(1) Traffic case dispositions are used as filings in district court.

TABLE VIII
DISTRICT COURTS
 (High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
FY 83 - FY 86



*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than traffic filings. Therefore, traffic case dispositions are used for both filing and disposition data above. For all other case types, filings data were used as indicated.

As shown in Table VIII, total district court filings have increased by 4% since FY 83, while total dispositions have decreased by 1%.

Table IX analyzes the composition of cases filed in higher volume district courts during FY 86. Traffic citations were the largest category of district court cases, accounting for 62% of the total caseload. The 38% of the caseload that was non-traffic cases was comprised of 48% criminal cases and 52% civil cases.

In FY 86, misdemeanor cases represent 48% of the non-traffic caseload and approximately 18% of the total district court caseload. Approximately 30% of all misdemeanor cases involve driving while intoxicated (DWI). Statewide, misdemeanor case filings decreased by 4% in FY 86.

TABLE IX
DISTRICT COURTS (High Volume Courts)
CASELOAD COMPOSITION FY 86

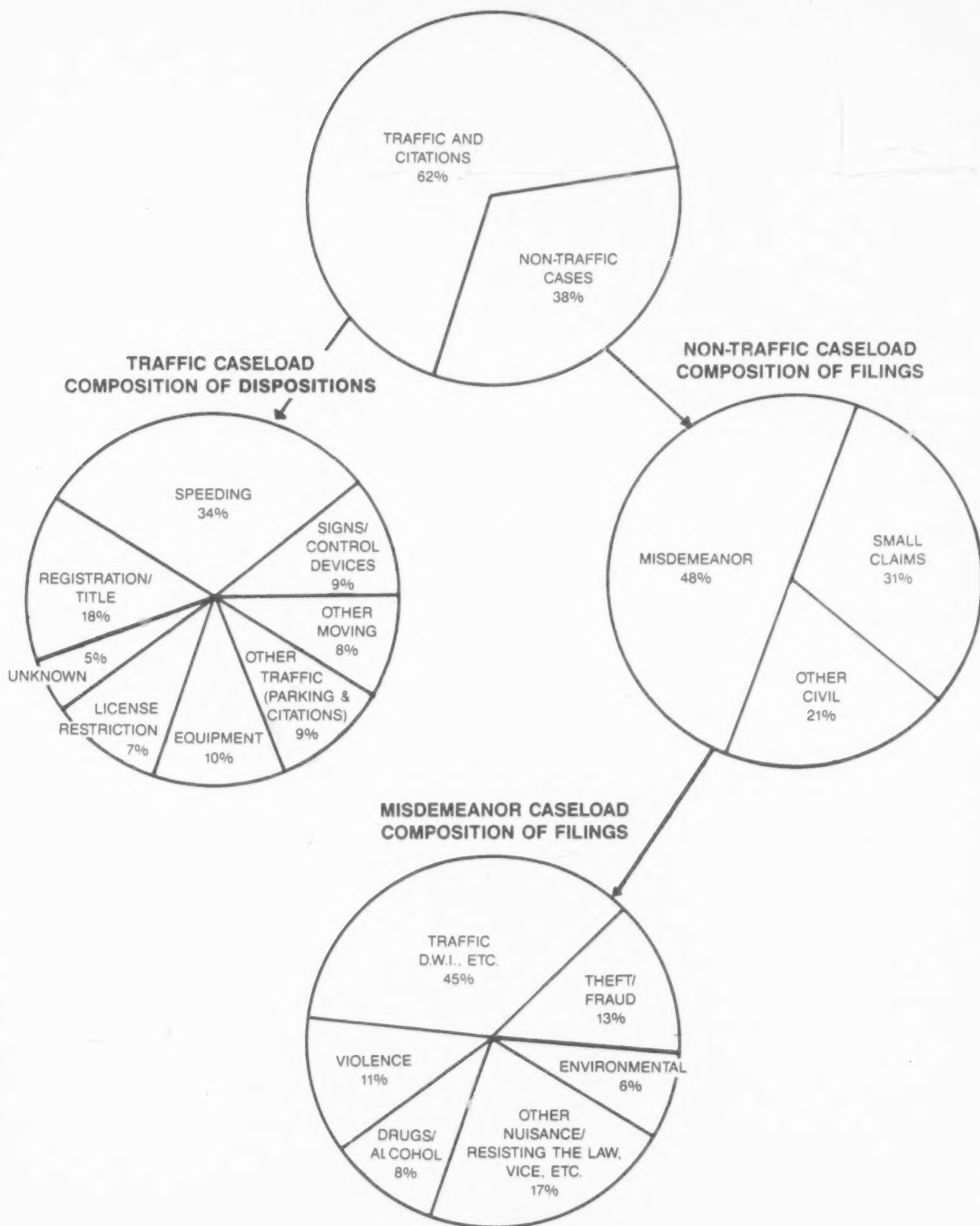
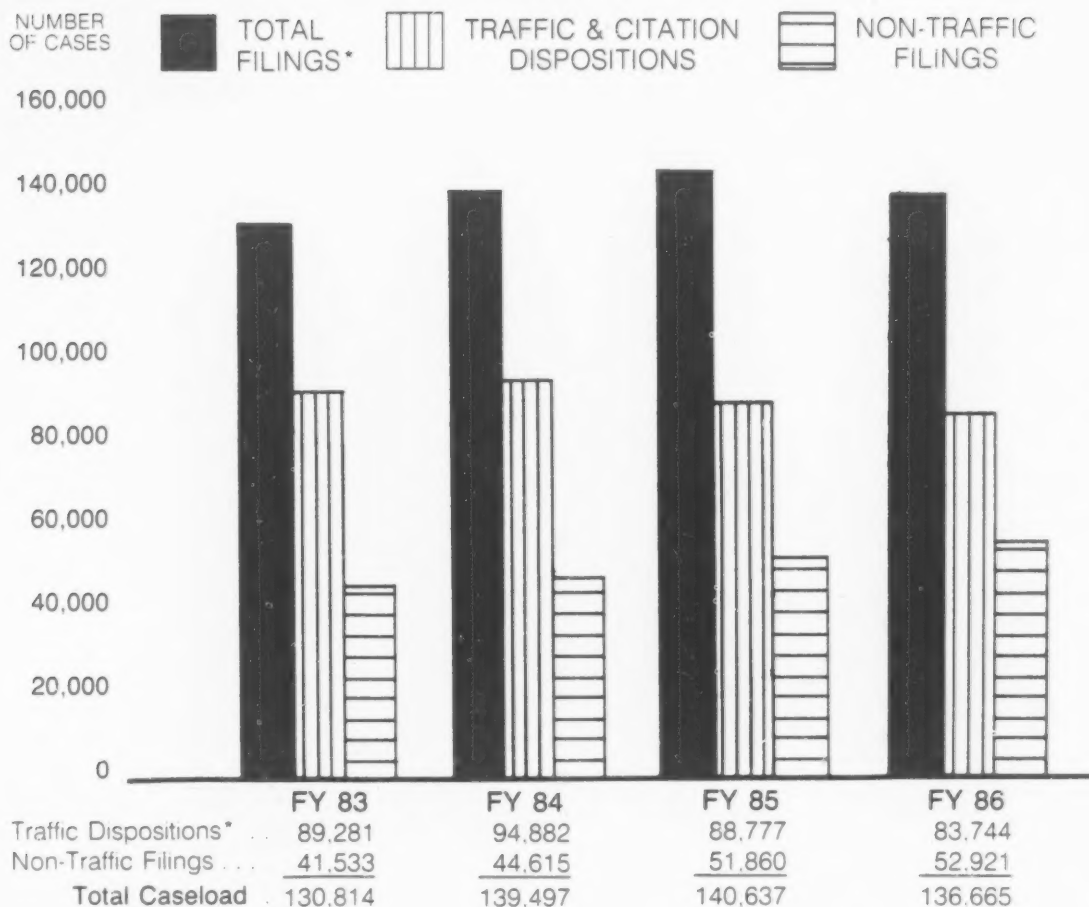


TABLE X
DISTRICT COURTS
 (High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF CASELOAD
FY 83 - FY 86



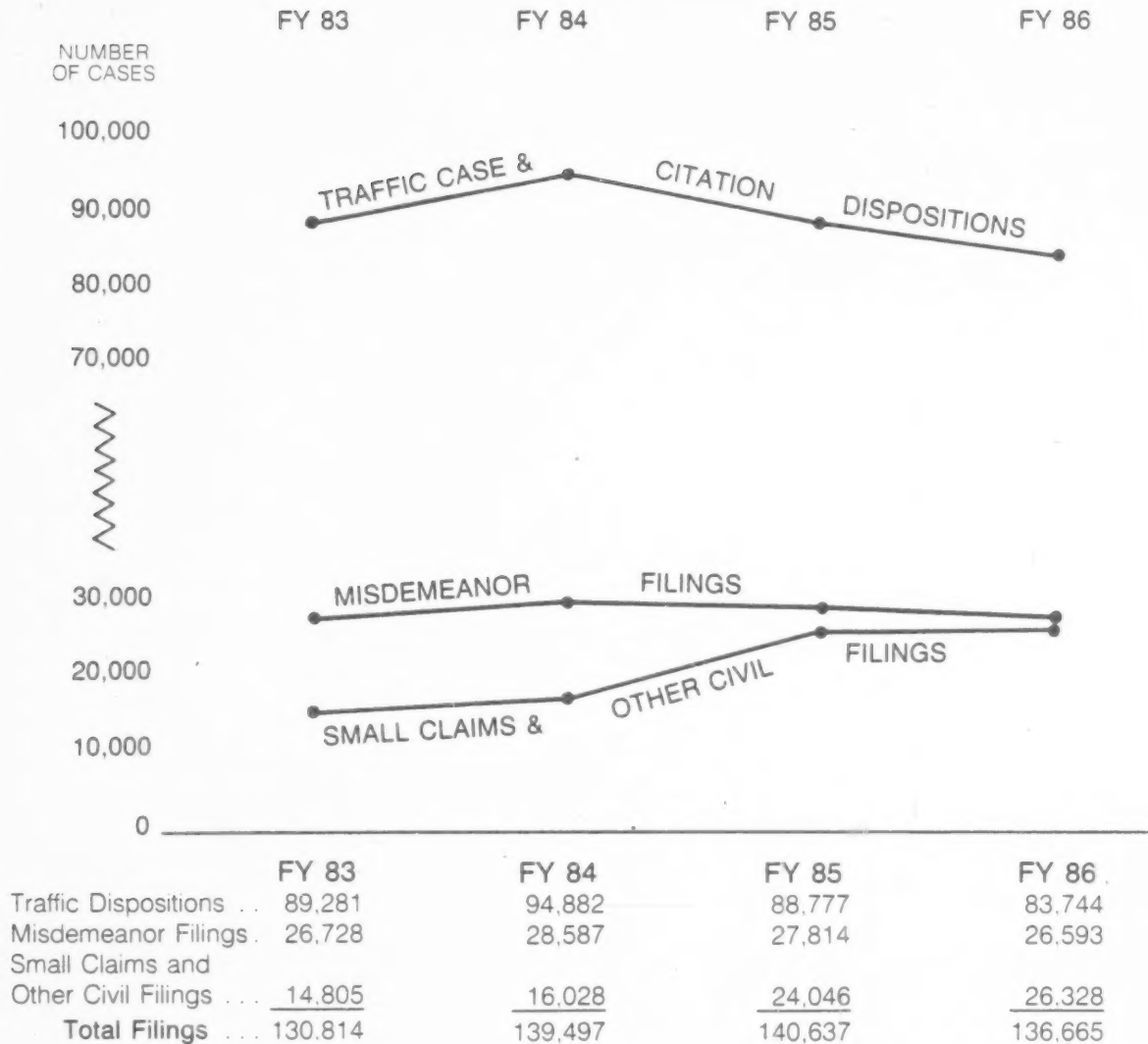
*Traffic case dispositions are a more accurate indicator of actual workload than traffic filings. For non-traffic cases, actual filings data were used.

Table X shows that in the major categories of traffic and non-traffic matters, non-traffic matters have increased steadily for a total increase of 27% since FY 83. Traffic citation filings have fluctuated each year but have shown an overall 6% decrease since FY 83.

Misdemeanor filings in district courts have fluctuated over the last four years and are

now approximately level with FY 83 filings. Civil case filings (small claims and other civil categories) have significantly increased each year for an overall 78% increase since FY 83. With increased monetary jurisdiction in civil cases, the district courts are dealing not only with increasing numbers of cases but also with increasing case complexity.

TABLE XI
DISTRICT COURTS
 (High and Low Volume)
SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY CASE TYPE
FY 83 - FY 86



Changes in filings since FY 83 for specific case types are noted in Table XI. Traffic citation cases have declined for the last two years while misdemeanor case filings have remain-

ed about the same. Civil filings (small claims and general civil cases) have increased significantly each year since FY 83 (+ 78% overall and + 9% from last year).

STATISTICS

FOREWORD

This statistical supplement is designed primarily for research applications. It is comprised of six sections dealing with appellate and trial court statistics. Appellate court statistics are subdivided into sections on the supreme court and court of appeals. Trial court statistics are comprised of sections on superior courts, higher volume district courts and lower volume district courts.

The administrative office is continuing a multi-year program (begun in 1982) to revise its data collection and data processing capabilities and procedures. As the transition from the older system to newer procedures and equipment progresses, the level of specificity that was contained in previous annual reports will be gradually reintroduced. Unfortunately, some lack of detailed data during this transition period is inevitable.

In FY 85 publication of data regarding the stage of disposition of cases closed out during the year was reinstated. In the trial court tables which follow, charts have been added which provide the reported number and types of trials and other types of dispositions for specific case types.

Any reader with questions, comments or suggestions about this statistical supplement is encouraged to contact:

Manager, Technical Operations
Office of the
Administrative Director
303 K Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Telephone: (907) 264-8211

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SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT SUMMARY OF FILINGS

FY84 - FY86

TYPE OF CASE	FY84		FY85		FY86		% INCREASE FY85 to FY86	
Appeals:								
Civil		300		311		295		-5
Petitions for Hearing - Criminal		79		93		152		+63
Petitions for Hearing - Sentence		13		9		21		+33
Petitions for Review	129		92		140		+52	
Original Applications	20		23		23		0	
TOTAL	541		528		631		+20	

SUPREME COURT SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS

FY84 - FY86

TYPE OF CASE	FY84		FY85		FY86		% INCREASE FY85 to FY86	
Appeals:								
Civil		325		273		328		+20
Petitions for Hearing - Criminal		89		79		148		+87
Petitions for Hearing - Sentence		12		14		15		+7
Petitions for Review	119		104		127		+22	
Original Applications	22		14		27		+93	
TOTAL	567		484		645		+33	

**SUPREME COURT
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION**

FY86

TYPE OF CASE	DISPOSITION BY				TOTAL	
	MERIT		NOT ON MERIT			
Appeals:						
Civil		199		129		328
Petitions for Hearing-Criminal		16		132		148
Petitions for Hearing-Sentence		1		14		15
Petitions for Review	19		108		127	
Original Applications	21		6		27	
TOTAL	256		389		645	
% OF TOTAL	40		60		100	

**SUPREME COURT
CASES PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1986**

TYPE OF CASE	FY84		FY85		FY86		% INCREASE FY85 - FY86	
Appeals:								
Civil		291		331		303		-8
Petitions for Hearing-Criminal		21		35		41		+17
Petitions for Hearing-Sentence		5		1		6		+600
Petitions for Review	38		23		32		+39	
Original Applications	5		15		8		-47	
TOTAL	360		404		390		-3	

SUPREME COURT REASON FOR CASES PENDING

JUNE 30, 1986

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AWAITING							STAYED	TOTAL
	DRAFT OPINION CIRCULATING	AWAITING DRAFT OPINION	RECORDS	BRIEFS	ARGU- MENT	DECISION	Rehear- ing		
Appeals:									
Civil	45	45	110	65	19	-	12	7	303
Criminal	6	5	-	9	2	3	-	16	41
Sentence	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	2	6
Petitions for Review	2	3	-	14	2	10	1	-	32
Original Applications	1	-	-	3	1	-	3	-	8
TOTAL	55	53	110	94	24	13	16	25	390
% OF TOTAL	14	14	28	24	7	3	4	6	100

2000

COURT OF APPEALS

COURT OF APPEALS SUMMARY OF FILINGS

FY84 - FY86

TYPE OF CASE	FY84	FY85	FY86	% INCREASE FY85 to FY86
Appeals:				
Merit	312	287	346	21%
Sentence	150	158	158	0%
Petitions for Review	64	60	83	38%
Original Applications	5	1	1	0%
TOTAL	531	506	588	16%

COURT OF APPEALS SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS

FY84 - FY86

TYPE OF CASE	FY84	FY85	FY86	% INCREASE
Appeals:				
Merit	276	283	381	35%
Sentence	168	122	206	69%
Petitions for Review	77	55	99	80%
Original Applications	5	1	2	100%
TOTAL	526	461	688	49%

**COURT OF APPEALS
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION**

FY86

TYPE OF CASE	DISPOSITION BY		TOTAL
	MERITS	NOT ON MERITS	
Appeals:			
Merit	336	43	379
Sentence	175	31	206
Petitions for Review	25	72	97
Original Applications	1	1	2
TOTAL	537	147	684
% OF TOTAL	79%	21%	100%

**COURT OF APPEALS
CASES PENDING AS OF JUNE 30, 1986**

TYPE OF CASE	FY84	FY85	FY86	% INCREASE
Appeals:				
Merit	350	342	306	-11%
Sentence	82	124	73	-41%
Petitions for Review	11	19	8	-58%
Original Applications	-	1	1	0%
TOTAL	443	486	388	-20%

COURT OF APPEALS **REASON FOR CASES PENDING**

JUNE 30, 1986

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AWAITING							STAYED AND/OR REMAND	TOTAL
	DRAFT DISPOSITION CIRCULATING	AWAITING DRAFT DISPOSITION	RECORDS	BRIEFS	SUBMISSION	DECISION	Rehear- ing		
Appeals:									
Merit	9	37	115	106	9	-	17	13	306
Sentence	3	14	10	30	3	-	10	3	73
Petitions for Review	-	-	1	4	-	1	1	1	8
Original Applications	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	12	51	127	140	12	1	28	17	388
% OF TOTAL	3%	13%	33%	36%	3%	1%	7%	4%	100%

STATEWIDE TRIAL COURT

ALASKA POPULATION

FY 86

LOCATION	POPULATION			% INCREASE TO	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
	CENSUS 1980	ESTIMATE *	INCREASE		
Anchorage	173017	243829	70812	+ 41	46.6
Barrow	4199	5367	1168	+ 28	1.0
Bethel	13354	12820	- 534	- 4	2.5
Cordova	2241	2393	152	+ 7	.5
Dillingham	4616	5171	555	+ 12	.9
Fairbanks	53983	64186	10203	+ 19	12.3
Glennallen	501	524	23	+ 5	.1
Homer	2209	9188	6979	+216	1.7
Juneau	19528	23729	4201	+ 22	4.5
Kenai	19785	25393	5608	+ 28	4.8
Ketchikan	11316	12705	1389	+ 12	2.4
Kodiak	9939	12381	2442	+ 20	2.4
Kotzebue	3478	3979	501	+ 14	.8
Nome	5229	6310	1081	+ 21	1.2
Palmer	17766	29836	12070	+ 68	5.7
Petersburg	3249	3552	303	+ 9	.7
Seward	2809	3269	460	+ 16	.6
Sitka	7803	7611	- 192	- 2	1.5
Tok	1702	1882	180	+ 11	.4
Unalaska	3263	3467	204	+ 6	.7
Valdez	5408	5545	137	+ 3	1.1
Wrangell	2363	2499	136	+ 6	.5
OTHER (Low Vol.)	32723	37412	4689	+ 14	7.2
TOTAL	400481	523048	122567	+ 31	100.0

* ALASKA POPULATION OVERVIEW - DEPT OF LABOR (OCTOBER 1985)

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	53794	60877	7083	+ 31	11.6
Second	15567	18939	3372	+ 22	3.6
Third	247830	347621	99791	+ 40	66.5
Fourth	83290	95611	12321	+ 15	18.3

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

ALASKA COURTS DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, POLICE AND LAWYERS

FY 86

LOCATION	POPULATION	TOTAL NUMBER POLICE	POLICE PER THOUSAND POPULATION $3 \div 2 \times 1000$	TOTAL NUMBERS LAWYERS	LAWYERS PER THOUSAND POPULATION $5 \div 2 \times 1000$
Anchorage	243829	359	1.5	1193	4.9
Barrow	5367	36	6.7	12	2.2
Bethel	12820	22	1.7	17	1.3
Cordova	2393	10	4.2	3	1.3
Dillingham	5171	12	2.3	4	.8
Fairbanks	64186	94	1.5	184	2.9
Glennallen	524	4	7.6	0	-
Homer	9188	14	1.5	10	1.1
Juneau	23729	50	2.1	193	8.1
Kenai	25393	42	1.7	36	1.4
Ketchikan	12705	30	2.4	38	2.9
Kodiak	12381	29	2.3	22	1.8
Kotzebue	3979	11	2.8	7	1.8
Nome	6310	12	1.9	9	1.4
Palmer	29836	34 *	1.1	39	1.3
Petersburg	3552	9	2.5	2	.6
Seward	3269	10	3.1	1	.3
Sitka	7611	17	2.2	19	2.5
Tok	1882	4	2.1	0	-
Unalaska	3467	8	2.3	0	-
Valdez	5545	17	3.1	5	.9
Wrangell	2499	7	2.8	3	1.2
OTHER (Low Vol.)					
TOTAL	485636	831	1.7	1797	3.7

* PLUS 20 RESERVES

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	50096	113	2.3	255	5.1
Second	15656	59	3.8	28	1.8
Third	340996	539	1.6	1313	3.9
Fourth	78888	120	1.5	201	2.5

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

ALASKA COURTS AUTHORIZED JUDICIAL POSITIONS

FY 86

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	MAGI-STRATES	MASTERS	TOTAL	% OF STATE-WIDE TOTAL
Anchorage	12	9	5	4	30	28.8
Barrow	1	0	1	0	2	1.9
Bethel	1	0	1	0	2	1.9
Cordova	0	0	1	0	1	.9
Dillingham	0	0	1	0	1	.9
Fairbanks	4	4	2	1	11	10.6
Glennallen	0	0	1	0	1	.9
Homer	0	1	0	0	1	.9
Juneau	2	1	0	0	3	2.9
Kenai	1	0	1	0	2	1.9
Ketchikan	1	1	0	0	2	1.9
Kodiak	1	0	1	0	2	1.9
Kotzebue	1	0	1	0	2	1.9
Nome	1	0	1	0	2	1.9
Palmer	1	0	1	0	2	1.9
Petersburg	0	0	1	0	1	.9
Seward	0	0	1	0	1	.9
Sitka	1	0	1	0	2	1.9
Tok	0	0	1	0	1	.9
Unalaska	0	0	1	0	1	.9
Valdez	1	0	0	0	1	.9
Wrangell	1	0	1	0	2	1.9
OTHER (Low Vol.)	0	0	31	0	31	29.8
TOTAL	29	16	54	5	104	100.0

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	5	2	11	0	18	17.3
Second	3	0	11	0	14	13.5
Third	16	10	19	4	49	47.1
Fourth	5	4	13	1	23	22.1

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

ALASKA COURTS AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL POSITIONS

FY 86

LOCATION	POSITIONS BY RANGE					% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
	BELOW 10	10 THROUGH 12	13 THOUGH 16	OVER 16	TOTAL	
Anchorage	33	103	32	7	175	45.6
Barrow	1	4	1	0	6	1.6
Bethel	1	4	1	0	6	1.6
Cordova	0	1	0	0	1	.3
Dillingham	1	1	0	0	2	.5
Fairbanks	11	51	11	4	77	20.0
Glennallen	1	1	0	0	2	.5
Homer	1	1	1	0	3	.8
Juneau	3	11	4	1	19	4.9
Kenai	5	7	1	1	14	3.6
Ketchikan	1	9	3	2	15	3.9
Kodiak	3	4	2	0	9	2.3
Kotzebue	1	3	1	0	5	1.3
Nome	1	4	1	0	6	1.6
Palmer	5	6	2	0	13	3.4
Petersburg	0	1	0	0	1	.3
Seward	1	1	0	0	2	.5
Sitka	1	4	2	0	7	1.8
Tok	0	1	0	0	1	.3
Unalaska	0	1	0	0	1	.3
Valdez	1	2	0	0	3	.8
Wrangell	0	2	0	0	2	.5
OTHER (Low Vol.)	2	12	0	0	14	3.6
TOTAL	73	234	62	15	384	100.0

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	6	29	9	3	47	12.2
Second	3	11	3	0	17	4.4
Third	52	138	38	8	236	61.5
Fourth	12	56	12	4	84	21.9

**ALASKA COURTS
OPERATING COSTS
(THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)**

FY 86

LOCATION	PERSONNEL	OTHER	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	DOLLAR COST PER CASE FILED	
					ALL FILINGS	LESS TRAFFIC FILINGS
Anchorage	10240.8	1629.2	11870.0	38.6%	\$ 149	\$ 351
Barrow	534.7	1082.1	1616.8	5.3%	1609	2102
Bethel	497.8	262.9	760.7	2.5%	312	456
Cordova	84.0	103.9	187.9	0.6%	378	478
Dillingham	121.5	146.3	267.8	0.9%	346	460
Fairbanks	4636.0	730.2	5366.2	17.5%	299	602
Glennallen	139.4	10.9	150.3	0.5%	285	479
Homer	263.6	97.5	361.1	1.2%	172	352
Juneau	1198.9	228.9	1427.8	4.6%	157	291
Kenai	885.7	128.5	1014.2	3.3%	116	270
Ketchikan	1011.0	212.7	1223.7	4.0%	264	519
Kodiak	555.3	90.7	646.0	2.1%	196	417
Kotzebue	494.1	90.2	584.3	1.9%	445	520
Nome	527.5	247.1	774.6	2.5%	542	678
Palmer	657.0	236.0	893.0	2.9%	82	203
Petersburg	88.0	73.7	161.7	0.5%	234	386
Seward	137.2	19.1	156.3	0.5%	66	241
Sitka	531.4	63.8	595.2	1.9%	298	594
Tok	104.9	62.4	167.3	0.5%	222	709
Unalaska	105.8	56.8	162.6	0.5%	467	600
Valdez	330.4	25.0	355.4	1.2%	553	779
Wrangell	299.1	50.6	349.7	1.1%	431	570
OTHER (Low Vol.)	1265.8	396.9	1662.7	5.4%	298	465
TOTAL	24709.9	6045.4	30755.3	100.0%	195	416

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	3464.5	718.6	4183.1	13.6%	221	395
Second	1836.4	1521.1	3357.5	10.9%	831	1008
Third	13728.1	2622.5	16350.6	53.2%	148	341
Fourth	5680.9	1183.5	6864.4	22.3	286	563

ALASKA COURTS DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, COSTS AND JUDGES

FY 86

LOCATION	PERCENTAGE OF STATEWIDE				
	POPULATION	OPERATING COSTS	JUDGES	CASE FILINGS	CASE DISPOSITION
Anchorage	46.6	38.6	28.8	50.4	48.0
Barrow	1.0	5.3	1.9	.6	.8
Bethel	2.5	2.5	1.9	1.5	1.6
Cordova	.5	.6	.9	.3	.3
Dillingham	.9	.9	.9	.5	.5
Fairbanks	12.3	17.5	10.6	11.4	13.3
Glennallen	.1	.5	.9	.3	.3
Homer	1.7	1.2	.9	1.3	1.3
Juneau	4.5	4.6	2.9	5.8	5.7
Kenai	4.8	3.3	1.9	5.5	5.9
Ketchikan	2.4	4.0	1.9	2.9	3.0
Kodiak	2.4	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.2
Kotzebue	.8	1.9	1.9	.8	.9
Nome	1.2	2.5	1.9	.9	.9
Palmer	5.7	2.9	1.9	6.9	6.9
Petersburg	.7	.5	.9	.4	.5
Seward	.6	.5	.9	1.5	1.5
Sitka	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.3	1.3
Tok	.4	.5	.9	.5	.5
Unalaska	.7	.5	.9	.2	.2
Valdez	1.1	1.2	.9	.4	.4
Wrangell	.5	1.1	1.9	.5	.6
OTHER (Low Vol.)	7.2	5.4	29.8	3.5	3.4
TOTAL	100.0	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	11.6	13.6	17.3	12.1	11.9
Second	3.6	10.9	13.5	2.6	2.8
Third	66.5	53.2	47.1	70.1	68.1
Fourth	18.3	22.3	22.1	15.3	17.1

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

ALASKA COURTS FILINGS

FY 86

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	TOTAL	% OF STATE-WIDE TOTAL	FILINGS PER JUDGE
Anchorage	11169	68665	79834	50.4	2661
Barrow	284	721	1005	.6	503
Bethel	559	1876	2435	1.5	1218
Cordova		497	497	.3	497
Dillingham		774	774	.5	774
Fairbanks	3112	14851	17963	11.4	1633
Glennallen		528	528	.3	528
Homer		2096	2096	1.3	2096
Juneau	1167	7942	9109	5.8	3036
Kenai	1096	7624	8720	5.5	4360
Ketchikan	714	3922	4636	2.9	2318
Kodiak	490	2806	3296	2.1	1648
Kotzebue	368	945	1313	.8	657
Nome	404	1024	1428	.9	714
Palmer	1118	9812	10930	6.9	5465
Petersburg		690	690	.4	690
Seward		2354	2354	1.5	2354
Sitka	314	1680	1994	1.3	997
Tok		753	753	.5	753
Unalaska		348	348	.2	348
Valdez	105	538	643	.4	643
Wrangell	171	641	812	.5	406
OTHER (Low Vol.)		5578	5578	3.5	180
TOTAL	21071	136665	157736	100	1517

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2366	16576	18942	12.1	1052
Second	1056	2985	4041	2.6	289
Third	13978	96750	110728	70.1	2260
Fourth	3671	20354	24025	15.3	1045

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

ALASKA COURTS DISPOSITIONS

FY 86

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	TOTAL	% OF STATE-WIDE TOTAL	DISPOSITIONS PER JUDGE
Anchorage	9003	60954	69957	48.0	2332
Barrow	334	801	1135	.8	568
Bethel	501	1776	2277	1.6	1139
Cordova		417	417	.3	417
Dillingham		683	683	.5	683
Fairbanks	3566	15758	19324	13.3	1757
Glennallen		498	498	.3	498
Homer		1852	1852	1.3	1852
Juneau	909	7346	8255	5.7	2752
Kenai	1131	7437	8568	5.9	4284
Ketchikan	641	3773	4414	3.0	2207
Kodiak	441	2799	3240	2.2	1620
Kotzebue	330	972	1302	.9	651
Nome	392	1032	1424	.9	712
Palmer	877	9310	10187	6.9	5094
Petersburg		666	666	.5	666
Seward		2218	2218	1.5	2218
Sitka	318	1605	1923	1.3	962
Tok		721	721	.5	721
Unalaska		295	295	.2	295
Valdez	70	472	542	.4	542
Wrangell	193	626	819	.6	410
OTHER (Low Vol.)		4986	4986	3.4	161
TOTAL	18706	126997	145703	100	1401

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2061	15396	17457	11.9	970
Second	1056	3089	4145	2.8	296
Third	11522	87619	99141	68.1	2023
Fourth	4067	20893	24960	17.1	1085

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURT

SUPERIOR COURT CASELOAD FY 1986

FY 86 statistics reflect a 3% decrease from FY 85 in superior court case filings. Superior courts reporting significant (10% or higher) increases in FY 86 filings included Bethel, Kenai, Nome and Kotzebue. Courts reporting significant decreases in caseload included Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Valdez and Wrangell/Petersburg.

Overall, superior courts reported a 1% increase in case dispositions when compared with FY 85. Four courts (Barrow, Kenai, Kodiak and Nome) reported significant increases in dispositions. Only Valdez reported a significant decrease in superior court dispositions during FY 86.

FELONY CASES

Felony case filings increased by 49% statewide during FY 86 when compared with FY 85. Ten of fourteen superior courts showed significant (+10%) increases in felony filings. These significant increases in filings were not restricted to any particular type of case; all criminal case type categories increased significantly.

The very significant increase in filings this year is the product of actual increases in felony filings plus the effect of a change in how the court system is now counting felony case filings. In prior annual reports, felony case filings were listed for district courts and also superior courts. District courts often create case files and hold

initial custody/bail hearings for felony defendants. District courts do not, however, have the jurisdiction to accept pleas or otherwise deal with felony matters. Past reporting procedures resulted in the double counting of some felony cases (once in district court and again in superior court). Starting with this annual report, felony cases will only be counted as superior court cases. This policy will eliminate double counting of some cases and will also enable court system case filing statistics to be more comparable with statistics compiled by other justice agencies. Some cases will continue to be disposed of in district court (e.g., reduction of charge to misdemeanor, prosecutorial dismissals, etc.) but will only be counted as superior court matters. In past years, cases that terminated in district court were not counted in superior courts. This year they are reflected in superior court filings and hence inflate the percentage differences in superior court filings between FY 85 and FY 86.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES

Domestic relations case filings decreased by 7% over FY 85. Eight courts reported significant decreases in domestic relations filings while Wrangell/Petersburg was the only court to report a significant increase. Divorce, dissolution and reciprocal support case filings all declined, while domestic violence case filings increased by 8% over FY 85. Statewide dispositions of domestic relations cases increased 1% from FY 85.

PROBATE CASES

Probate case filings statewide decreased by 4% over FY 85 levels. Statewide dispositions of probate cases remained even with FY 85 levels. In larger courts (those with over 200 annual probate filings), Anchorage reported a 14% decrease in filings and a 13% decrease in dispositions while Fairbanks reported a 24% increase in filings but a 4% decrease in probate dispositions.

OTHER CIVIL MATTERS

Other civil case filings (civil damages, administrative review, contracts and notes, housing and real estate matters, etc.) decreased by 17% statewide in FY 86. Juneau, Kenai, Kotzebue and Nome reported significant increases in other civil case filings, but these increases were masked by a 25% decrease in Anchorage filings (a 996 case decrease) from FY 85.

Other civil case dispositions decreased by 23% from FY 85 levels. Barrow, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Nome and Palmer reported significant increases in other civil case dispositions. Bethel, Fairbanks, Valdez and Wrangell/Petersburg reported significant decreases in other civil case dispositions but the major reason for the statewide decline in dispositions resulted from a 1,247 case (37%) decrease in the number of other civil cases disposed of in Anchorage during FY 86.

CHILDREN'S MATTERS

Filings of children's matters in superior courts increased by approximately 13% in FY 86. In several courts, the reported increases are the product of improved reporting procedures for children's matters while other courts (Barrow, Kodiak and Palmer) probably did have significant increases. Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Nome, Valdez and Wrangell/Petersburg reported significant decreases in children's matters filings. Statewide dispositions of children's matters increased by 21% over FY 85. Again, some of this increase was the product of improved reporting procedures.

SUPERIOR COURTS SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY COURT

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	9960	10642	11602	11169	+ 12	- 4
Barrow	189	250	285	284	+ 50	-
Bethel	444	511	469	559	+ 26	+ 19
Fairbanks	3138	3608	3448	3112	- 1	- 10
Juneau	1022	1177	1211	1167	+ 14	- 4
Kenai	819	951	928	1096	+ 34	+ 18
Ketchikan	740	810	813	714	- 4	- 12
Kodiak	452	429	455	490	+ 8	+ 8
Kotzebue	242	343	263	368	+ 52	+ 40
Nome	345	288	330	404	+ 17	+ 22
Palmer	501	867	1148	1118	+123	- 3
Sitka	350	388	322	314	- 10	- 2
Valdez	*	*	133	105	-	- 20
Wrangell/ Petersburg	162	196	219	171	+ 6	- 22
TOTAL	18364	20460	21626	21071	+ 15	- 3

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	2274	2571	2565	2366	+ 4	- 8
Second	776	881	878	1056	+ 36	+ 20
Third	11732	12889	14266	13978	+ 19	- 2
Fourth	3582	4119	3917	3671	+ 2	- 6

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 86

COURT	CRIMINAL		CIVIL			CHILDRENS MATTERS	TOTAL
	FELONY	%	PROBATE	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	OTHER		
Anchorage	1103	10	1368	5102	2923	673	11169
Barrow	50	18	26	72	30	106	284
Bethel	142	25	116	155	50	96	559
Fairbanks	343	11	584	1233	699	253	3112
Juneau	119	10	162	458	325	103	1167
Kenai	174	16	86	393	273	170	1096
Ketchikan	147	21	111	238	131	87	714
Kodiak	104	21	46	180	121	39	490
Kotzebue	93	25	42	68	99	66	368
Nome	109	27	65	58	92	80	404
Palmer	198	18	98	543	148	131	1118
Sitka	37	12	55	90	62	70	314
Valdez	20	19	10	43	27	5	105
Wrangell/ Petersburg	19	11	34	70	20	28	171
TOTAL	2658	13	2803	8703	5000	1907	21071

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	322	14	362	856	538	288	2366
Second	252	24	133	198	221	252	1056
Third	1599	11	1608	6261	3492	1018	13978
Fourth	485	13	700	1388	749	349	3671

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS BY COURT

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	8086	8105	9491	9003	+ 11	- 5
Barrow	104	220	213	334	+221	+ 57
Bethel	436	440	465	501	+ 15	+ 8
Fairbanks	2639	2839	3632	3566	+ 35	- 2
Juneau	721	898	977	909	+ 26	- 7
Kenai	623	722	873	1131	+ 82	+ 30
Ketchikan	500	694	616	641	+ 28	+ 4
Kodiak	317	331	290	441	+ 39	+ 52
Kotzebue	208	340	300	330	+ 59	+ 10
Nome	288	297	263	392	+ 36	+ 49
Palmer	291	605	825	877	+ 201	+ 6
Sitka	290	317	334	318	+ 10	- 5
Valdez	*	*	97	70	-	- 28
Wrangell/ Petersburg	67	140	185	193	+188	+ 4
TOTAL	14570	15948	18561	18706	+ 28	+ 1

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1578	2049	2112	2061	+ 31	- 2
Second	600	857	776	1056	+ 76	+ 36
Third	9317	9763	11576	11522	+ 24	-
Fourth	3075	3279	4097	4067	+ 32	- 1

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS FELONY CASES FILINGS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	583	563	635	1103	+ 89	+ 74
Barrow	54	85	51	50	- 7	- 2
Bethel	99	142	90	142	+ 43	+ 58
Fairbanks	391	403	309	343	- 12	+ 11
Juneau	110	156	122	119	+ 8	- 2
Kenai	100	102	75	174	+ 74	+132
Ketchikan	72	53	76	147	+ 104	+ 93
Kodiak	58	53	81	104	+ 79	+ 28
Kotzebue	43	52	52	93	+116	+ 79
Nome	48	51	58	109	+ 127	+ 88
Palmer	12	143	136	198	+ 1550	+ 46
Sitka	11	24	23	37	+ 236	+ 61
Valdez	*	*	35	20	-	- 43
Wrangell/ Petersburg	26	19	39	19	- 27	- 51
TOTAL	1607	1846	1782	2658	+ 65	+ 49

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	219	252	260	322	+ 47	+ 24
Second	145	188	161	252	+ 74	+ 57
Third	753	861	962	1599	+112	+ 66
Fourth	490	545	399	485	- 1	+ 22

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS**

FY 86

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	
Anchorage	386	370	94	205	48	1103
Barrow	27	13	0	2	8	50
Bethel	96	25	1	3	17	142
Fairbanks	113	140	24	21	45	343
Juneau	38	27	12	33	9	119
Kenai	45	48	5	47	29	174
Ketchikan	28	48	2	47	22	147
Kodiak	46	40	4	9	5	104
Kotzebue	40	20	5	10	18	93
Nome	55	18	6	24	6	109
Palmer	73	84	7	19	15	198
Sitka	15	9	0	8	5	37
Valdez	6	7	0	0	7	20
Wrangell/ Petersburg	14	2	0	1	2	19
TOTAL	982	851	160	429	236	2658

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	95	86	14	89	38	322
Second	122	51	11	36	32	252
Third	556	549	110	280	104	1599
Fourth	209	165	25	24	62	485

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS FELONY CASES DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	628	499	558	1043	+ 66	+ 87
Barrow	44	51	50	71	+ 61	+ 42
Bethel	106	125	90	120	+ 13	+ 33
Fairbanks	362	333	279	414	+ 14	+ 48
Juneau	76	89	117	132	+ 74	+ 13
Kenai	82	97	98	175	+113	+ 79
Ketchikan	65	74	69	108	+ 66	+ 57
Kodiak	53	49	40	113	+113	+183
Kotzebue	44	68	66	93	+114	+ 41
Nome	40	48	58	98	+145	+ 69
Palmer	9	113	141	153	+ 1600	+ 9
Sitka	14	26	29	32	+119	+ 10
Valdez	*	*	2	16	-	+700
Wrangell/ Petersburg	6	16	23	22	+267	- 4
TOTAL	1529	1588	1620	2590	+ 69	+ 60

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	161	205	238	294	+ 83	+ 24
Second	128	167	174	262	+105	+ 51
Third	772	758	839	1500	+ 94	+ 79
Fourth	468	458	369	534	+ 14	+ 45

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS FELONY CASES DISPOSITION STAGES

FY 86

COURT	STAGES OF DISPOSITION								TOTAL DISPOSITIONS
	AT/BEFORE ARRAIGNMENT		BETWEEN ARG. AND TRIAL		COURT TRIALS		JURY TRIALS		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Anchorage	132	13	775	74	7	1	129	12	1043
Barrow	1	1	56	79	0	-	14	20	71
Bethel	13	11	100	83	0	-	7	6	120
Fairbanks	7	2	343	83	7	2	57	13	414
Juneau	1	1	121	92	0	-	10	7	132
Kenai	6	3	159	91	3	2	7	4	175
Ketchikan	1	1	96	89	3	3	8	7	108
Kodiak	1	1	102	90	0	-	10	9	113
Kotzebue	3	3	87	94	0	-	3	3	93
Nome	2	2	91	93	0	-	5	5	98
Palmer	9	6	136	89	2	1	6	4	153
Sitka	0	-	31	97	0	-	1	3	32
Valdez	1	6	15	94	0	-	0	-	16
Wrangell/ Petersburg	1	4.5	20	91	0		1	4.5	22
TOTAL	178	7	2132	82	22	1	258	10 *	2590

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	3	1	268	91	3	1	20	7	294
Second	6	2	234	89	0	-	22	8	262
Third	149	10	1187	79	12	1	152	10	1500
Fourth	20	4	443	83	7	1	64	12	534

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

* See page S-25 for a discussion of the change in felony case counting procedures which may have resulted in an artificial reduction in the percentages of cases going to trial.

SUPERIOR COURTS PROBATE CASES FILINGS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	1356	1476	1593	1368	-	- 14
Barrow	15	21	30	26	+ 73	- 13
Bethel	65	75	84	116	+ 78	+ 38
Fairbanks	521	537	470	584	+ 12	+ 24
Juneau	121	122	142	162	+ 34	+ 14
Kenai	81	88	96	86	+ 6	- 10
Ketchikan	92	120	142	111	+ 21	- 22
Kodiak	54	55	37	46	- 15	+ 24
Kotzebue	42	47	51	42	-	- 18
Nome	75	63	67	65	- 13	- 3
Palmer	58	72	98	98	+ 69	-
Sitka	80	75	50	55	- 31	+ 10
Valdez	*	*	15	10	-	- 33
Wrangell/ Petersburg	16	29	36	34	+113	- 6
TOTAL	2576	2780	2911	2803	+ 9	- 4

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	309	346	370	362	+ 17	- 2
Second	132	131	148	133	+ 1	- 10
Third	1549	1691	1839	1608	+ 4	- 13
Fourth	586	612	554	700	+ 19	+ 26

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**SUPERIOR COURTS
PROBATE CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS**

FY 86

COURT	CASE TYPE							TOTAL
	ADOP- TION	ESTATES	SANITY	GUARD- IANSHIP	PROBATE WAIVER	PROTECT- TIVE	OTHER	
Anchorage	292	525	275	130	80	66	0	1368
Barrow	23	0	3	0	0	0	0	26
Bethel	26	29	57	4	0	0	0	116
Fairbanks	129	211	130	10	0	44	60	584
Juneau	33	60	50	9	0	9	1	162
Kenai	18	20	24	8	0	0	16	86
Ketchikan	18	34	8	20	0	0	31	111
Kodiak	12	14	3	1	0	0	16	46
Kotzebue	10	5	26	1	0	0	0	42
Nome	23	18	20	2	0	1	1	65
Palmer	21	39	12	7	7	11	1	98
Sitka	12	22	17	3	0	0	1	55
Valdez	2	4	1	1	0	0	2	10
Wrangell/ Petersburg	8	16	6	3	1	0	0	34
TOTAL	627	997	632	199	88	131	129	2803
% OF TOTAL	22	36	22	7	3	5	5	100 %

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	71	132	81	35	1	9	33	362
Second	56	23	49	3	0	1	1	133
Third	345	602	315	147	87	77	35	1608
Fourth	155	240	187	14	0	44	60	700

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS PROBATE CASES DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	1076	1008	1060	924	- 14	- 13
Barrow	4	4	3	33	+725	+ 1000
Bethel	42	43	49	98	+133	+100
Fairbanks	392	407	492	470	+ 20	- 4
Juneau	90	90	114	93	+ 3	- 18
Kenai	40	26	23	75	+ 88	+226
Ketchikan	70	75	81	98	+ 40	+ 21
Kodiak	25	3	5	18	- 28	+260
Kotzebue	23	49	24	42	+ 83	+ 75
Nome	58	36	35	59	+ 2	+ 69
Palmer	15	26	66	56	+273	- 15
Sitka	58	16	58	70	+ 21	+ 21
Valdez	*	*	7	4	-	- 43
Wrangell/ Petersburg	11	14	43	25	+127	- 42
TOTAL	1904	1797	2060	2065	+ 8	-

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	229	195	296	286	+ 25	- 3
Second	85	89	62	134	+ 58	+116
Third	1156	1063	1161	1077	- 7	- 7
Fourth	434	450	541	568	+ 31	+ 5

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
FILINGS**

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	4917	5074	5013	5102	+ 4	+ 2
Barrow	65	91	92	72	+ 11	- 22
Bethel	160	136	147	155	- 3	+ 5
Fairbanks	1333	1489	1565	1233	- 8	- 21
Juneau	465	490	629	458	- 2	- 27
Kenai	354	425	484	393	+ 11	- 19
Ketchikan	321	332	340	238	- 26	- 30
Kodiak	217	196	189	180	- 17	- 5
Kotzebue	82	108	64	68	- 17	+ 6
Nome	93	81	98	58	- 38	- 41
Palmer	314	442	578	543	+ 73	- 6
Sitka	145	152	107	90	- 38	- 16
Valdez	*	*	53	43	-	- 19
Wrangell/ Petersburg	80	86	49	70	- 12	+ 43
TOTAL	8546	9102	9408	8703	+ 2	- 7

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1011	1060	1125	856	- 15	- 24
Second	240	280	254	198	- 17	- 22
Third	5802	6137	6317	6261	+ 8	- 1
Fourth	1493	1625	1712	1388	- 7	- 19

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS**

FY 86

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	DIVORCE	DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE	RECIPROCAL SUPPORT	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	OTHER	
Anchorage	917	1703	1001	1349	132	5102
Barrow	7	20	4	41	0	72
Bethel	12	26	32	85	0	155
Fairbanks	246	511	146	307	23	1233
Juneau	87	195	41	126	9	458
Kenai	50	193	18	132	0	393
Ketchikan	52	111	31	43	1	238
Kodiak	46	76	15	43	0	180
Kotzebue	2	17	11	38	0	68
Nome	7	10	18	23	0	58
Palmer	72	222	85	160	4	543
Sitka	20	37	3	28	2	90
Valdez	7	17	2	15	2	43
Wrangell/ Petersburg	15	30	3	21	1	70
TOTAL	1540	3168	1410	2411	174	8703

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	174	373	78	218	13	856
Second	16	47	33	102	0	198
Third	1092	2211	1121	1699	138	6261
Fourth	258	537	178	392	23	1388

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	4194	4233	4219	4544	+ 8	+ 8
Barrow	44	57	74	66	+ 50	- 11
Bethel	154	136	147	153	- 1	+ 4
Fairbanks	1298	1418	1660	1575	+ 21	- 5
Juneau	362	452	531	419	+ 16	- 21
Kenai	280	346	477	426	+ 52	- 11
Ketchikan	260	350	280	276	+ 6	- 1
Kodiak	169	172	163	173	+ 2	+ 6
Kotzebue	70	124	87	79	+ 13	- 9
Nome	80	99	86	69	- 14	- 20
Palmer	210	324	420	469	+123	+ 12
Sitka	156	155	125	89	- 43	- 29
Valdez	*	*	68	36	-	- 47
Wrangell/ Petersburg	37	73	49	67	+ 81	+ 37
TOTAL	7314	7939	8386	8441	+ 15	+ 1

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	815	1030	985	851	+ 4	- 14
Second	194	280	247	214	+ 10	- 13
Third	4853	5075	5347	5648	+ 16	+ 6
Fourth	1452	1554	1807	1728	+ 19	- 4

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
DISPOSITION STAGES**

FY 86

COURT	STAGE OF DISPOSITION					TOTAL
	DISMISSED	DIVORCE HEARING	TRIAL	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	OTHER	
Anchorage	243	1909	155	1232	1005	4544
Barrow	1	4	0	33	28	66
Bethel	14	5	3	82	49	153
Fairbanks	317	734	40	290	194	1575
Juneau	25	230	7	102	55	419
Kenai	28	232	0	123	43	426
Ketchikan	23	136	3	71	43	276
Kodiak	24	96	7	36	10	173
Kotzebue	10	16	0	39	14	79
Nome	16	18	0	24	11	69
Palmer	63	209	1	130	66	469
Sitka	10	47	0	26	6	89
Valdez	1	18	0	14	3	36
Wrangell/ Petersburg	5	31	0	22	9	67
TOTAL	780	3685	216	2224	1536	8441

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	63	444	10	221	113	851
Second	27	38	0	96	53	214
Third	359	2464	163	1535	1127	5648
Fourth	331	739	43	372	243	1728

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
FILINGS**

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	2511	2892	3919	2923	+ 16	- 25
Barrow	35	31	36	30	- 14	- 17
Bethel	35	54	58	50	+ 43	- 14
Fairbanks	656	645	792	699	+ 7	- 12
Juneau	275	336	290	325	+ 18	+ 12
Kenai	203	207	248	273	+ 34	+ 10
Ketchikan	92	147	139	131	+ 42	- 6
Kodiak	107	88	118	121	+ 13	+ 3
Kotzebue	32	76	32	99	+209	+209
Nome	36	50	17	92	+156	+441
Palmer	92	139	229	148	+ 61	- 35
Sitka	49	61	71	62	+ 27	- 13
Valdez	*	*	23	27	-	+ 17
Wrangell/ Petersburg	15	22	24	20	+ 33	- 17
TOTAL	4138	4748	5996	5000	+ 21	- 17

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	431	566	524	538	+ 25	+ 3
Second	103	157	85	221	+115	+160
Third	2913	3326	4537	3492	+ 20	- 23
Fourth	691	699	850	749	+ 8	- 12

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS**

FY 86

COURT	CASE TYPE				TOTAL
	CIVIL DAMAGE	ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW	GENERAL	OTHER	
Anchorage	1748	156	280	739	2923
Barrow	3	0	-	27	30
Bethel	21	0	-	29	50
Fairbanks	270	44	241	144	699
Juneau	106	27	69	123	325
Kenai	22	0	-	251	273
Ketchikan	86	2	-	43	131
Kodiak	11	0	-	110	121
Kotzebue	1	0	-	98	99
Nome	1	1	-	90	92
Palmer	53	5	63	27	148
Sitka	7	-	-	55	62
Valdez	2	0	-	25	27
Wrangell/ Petersburg	13	1	1	5	20
TOTAL	2344	236	654	1766	5000

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	212	30	70	226	538
Second	5	1	0	215	221
Third	1836	161	343	1152	3492
Fourth	291	44	241	173	749

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS OTHER CIVIL CASES DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	1745	1902	3356	2109	+ 21	- 37
Barrow	12	14	20	38	+217	+ 90
Bethel	40	41	77	44	+ 10	- 43
Fairbanks	548	597	1021	917	+ 67	- 10
Juneau	155	244	215	224	+ 45	+ 4
Kenai	136	126	259	237	+ 74	- 8
Ketchikan	82	117	116	112	+ 37	- 3
Kodiak	56	74	61	99	+ 77	+ 62
Kotzebue	29	37	37	64	+121	+ 73
Nome	42	62	27	69	+ 64	+156
Palmer	37	84	99	136	+268	+ 37
Sitka	43	54	58	57	+ 33	- 2
Valdez	*	*	17	11	-	- 35
Wrangell/ Petersburg	4	14	24	19	+375	- 21
TOTAL	2929	3366	5387	4136	+ 41	- 23

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	284	429	413	412	+ 45	-
Second	83	113	84	171	+106	+104
Third	1974	2186	3792	2592	+ 31	- 32
Fourth	588	638	1098	961	+ 63	- 12

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITION STAGES**

FY 86

COURT	STAGE OF DISPOSITION					TOTAL
	DISMISS	DEFAULT	SUMMARY JUDGMENT	JURY TRIAL	COURT TRIAL	
Anchorage	592	200	1266	22	29	2109
Barrow	4	1	33	0	0	38
Bethel	27	5	12	0	0	44
Fairbanks	546	36	269	8	58	917
Juneau	83	30	94	3	14	224
Kenai	48	7	165	3	14	237
Ketchikan	45	9	55	2	1	112
Kodiak	56	10	31	0	2	99
Kotzebue	62	0	2	0	0	64
Nome	26	13	28	2	0	69
Palmer	81	17	36	2	0	136
Sitka	27	6	23	1	0	57
Valdez	4	1	5	1	0	11
Wrangell/ Petersburg	7	1	11	0	0	19
TOTAL	1608	336	2030	44	118	4136

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	162	46	183	6	15	412
Second	92	14	63	2	0	171
Third	781	235	1503	28	45	2592
Fourth	573	41	281	8	58	961

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS CHILDREN'S MATTERS FILINGS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	593	637	606	673	+ 13	+ 11
Barrow	20	22	76	106	+430	+ 39
Bethel	85	104	90	96	+ 13	+ 7
Fairbanks	237	534	312	253	+ 7	- 19
Juneau	51	73	28	103	+102	+268
Kenai	81	129	25	170	+110	+580
Ketchikan	163	158	116	87	- 47	- 25
Kodiak	16	37	30	39	+144	+ 30
Kotzebue	43	60	64	66	+ 53	+ 3
Nome	93	43	90	80	- 14	- 11
Palmer	25	71	107	131	+424	+ 22
Sitka	65	76	71	70	+ 8	- 1
Valdez	*	*	7	5	-	- 29
Wrangell/ Petersburg	25	40	71	28	+ 12	- 61
TOTAL	1497	1984	1693	1907	+ 27	+ 13

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	304	347	286	288	- 5	+ 1
Second	156	125	230	252	+ 62	+ 10
Third	715	874	775	1018	+ 42	+ 31
Fourth	322	638	402	349	+ 8	- 13

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

SUPERIOR COURTS CHILDREN'S MATTERS DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	443	463	412	383	- 14	- 7
Barrow	-	94	66	126	-	+ 91
Bethel	94	95	102	86	- 9	- 16
Fairbanks	39	84	180	190	+387	+ 6
Juneau	38	23	-	41	+ 8	-
Kenai	85	127	16	218	+156	+1263
Ketchikan	23	78	70	47	+104	- 33
Kodiak	14	33	21	38	+171	+ 81
Kotzebue	42	62	86	52	+ 24	- 40
Nome	68	52	57	97	+ 43	+ 70
Palmer	20	58	99	63	+215	- 36
Sitka	19	66	64	70	+268	+ 9
Valdez	*	*	3	3	-	-
Wrangell/ Petersburg	9	23	46	60	+567	+ 30
TOTAL	894	1258	1222	1474	+ 65	+ 21

* NOT YET A SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	89	190	180	218	+145	+ 21
Second	110	208	209	275	+150	+ 32
Third	562	681	551	705	+ 25	+ 28
Fourth	133	179	282	276	+108	- 2

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
FORMAL DISPOSITIONS**

FY 86

COURT	PROBATION	INSTITUTION- ALIZED	TERMI- NATION PARENTAL RIGHTS	DISMISSED	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	169	48		3	163	383
Barrow				16	110	126
Bethel				17	69	86
Fairbanks			1	22	167	190
Juneau					41	41
Kenai	60	6		28	124	218
Ketchikan				22	25	47
Kodiak	12			12	14	38
Kotzebue				29	23	52
Nome				36	61	97
Palmer	31	10		12	10	63
Sitka				25	45	70
Valdez					3	3
Wrangell/ Petersburg	1	7		14	38	60
TOTAL	273	71	1	236	893	1474

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1	7	0	61	149	218
Second	0	0	0	81	194	275
Third	272	64	0	55	314	705
Fourth	0	0	1	39	236	276

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURT
(Higher Volume)

HIGHER VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS CASELOAD FY 1986

District court statistics are maintained separately for high and low volume courts. There are 22 higher volume courts (including all district courts located with a superior court). There are 30 magistrates in lower volume courts.

Total filings in higher volume district courts decreased by 3% from FY 85. Total dispositions in these courts decreased by 2%. These percentage changes are somewhat misleading in that they reflect a 6% decrease in traffic citation dispositions. Traffic citations represent a large percentage of overall filings in the district courts, but account for a relatively small portion of the actual workload. Non-traffic filings (misdemeanors, small claims, civil matters and some children's matters) actually increased 1% over FY 85 levels.

SPECIAL NOTE: FELONY CASES

In prior annual reports felony case filings were listed for district courts and also for superior courts. District courts often create case files and hold initial custody/bail hearings for felony defendants. District courts do not, however, have the jurisdiction to accept pleas or otherwise deal with felony matters. These "district court" felonies usually resulted in double counting felony cases (once in district court and again in superior court). Starting with this report, felony cases will only be counted as superior court cases. While this policy will deny some credit for work performed in the district courts (particularly the rural district courts), it will enable

court system case filing statistics to be more comparable with statistics compiled by other justice agencies to determine the actual number of felony cases initiated each year. All multi-year tables and charts in this report have been revised to delete all district court felony data from prior year statistics. This allows for multi-year comparisons that are based on the same caseload composition.

MISDEMEANOR CASES

Misdemeanor case filings decreased by 6% during FY 86 in higher volume district courts. Misdemeanor dispositions also decreased by 3% from FY 85 levels in these courts.

Traffic related offenses are the largest category of misdemeanor case filings (45%). These offenses include driving while intoxicated (DWI), reckless/negligent driving, driving on a revoked/suspended license, and several accident-related traffic offenses.

SMALL CLAIMS CASES

Statewide filings of small claims cases in higher volume district courts increased by 5% in FY 86. Several rural courts reported significant (10% or higher) increases. Fairbanks reported a 16% increase in filings. However, these increases were numerically offset by the fact that there was essentially no change in the number of small claims cases filed in Anchorage. Statewide small claims dispositions increased by 23% over FY 85. Given the 33% increase in small claims case filings reported in FY 85, the FY 86 dispositions indicate that the district courts are now coping with those increases.

OTHER CIVIL FILINGS

Other civil case filings (civil damages, debts, contracts and notes, etc.) increased by 14% during FY 86. Significant increases were reported in almost all relatively urban court sites and in some rural sites. Dispositions of other civil cases increased 48% over FY 85 levels. Much of this increase in disposition rate is due to default judgments granted in the surge of "student loan" cases filed in the Anchorage district court in FY 85 (3,450 cases) and FY 86 (4,000 cases).

Effective July 1, 1985, the jurisdictional limit on civil case filings in the district court was increased to \$25,000 from prior \$10,000 or \$15,000 limits. Many of the significant increases reported in the smaller courts in this category may result from cases now being filed in district court that would have been superior court matters last year. The fact that superior court "other civil" cases decreased while district court "other civil" cases increased would tend to support this supposition.

TRAFFIC CASES

Traffic citation cases are not reported to the administrative office until final disposition. Because of this, filings for traffic matters understate the actual workload in any given year. Wherever filing data is required to assess the overall workload of the courts, traffic disposition data has been substituted for traffic filing data in all tables and charts in this report.

Traffic disposition data is taken from automated files maintained by the Department of Public Safety. Court system personnel enter traffic citation disposition data into these files. On an annual basis, computer programs are run against these files to determine the number of traffic citations disposed of by each court location during the preceding year. Overall, traffic dispositions decreased by 6% during FY 86.

CHILDREN'S MATTERS

Although children's matters are normally within the jurisdiction of superior courts, some district court magistrates are empowered to act as standing masters for children's proceedings with the concurrence of the parties. The administrative office began collecting data on these cases in FY 84. There were only 49 such cases reported in FY 84 and that number decreased to 27 in FY 85. In FY 86 there were 61 such children's matters reported.

DISTRICT COURTS FILINGS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	64443	70409	69213	68665	+ 7	- 1
Barrow	357	474	513	721	+102	+ 36
Bethel	1141	1163	1504	1876	+ 64	+ 25
Cordova	736	552	483	497	- 32	+ 3
Dillingham	396	614	804	774	+ 95	- 4
Fairbanks	21387	20248	14361	14851	- 31	+ 3
Glennallen	685	724	855	528	- 23	- 38
Homer	2761	2448	2770	2096	- 24	- 24
Juneau	4967	6085	7552	7942	+ 60	+ 5
Kenai	7013	7993	7455	7624	+ 9	+ 2
Ketchikan	3294	4309	4572	3922	+ 19	- 14
Kodiak	3191	3141	3631	2806	- 12	- 23
Kotzebue	949	995	1020	945	-	- 7
Nome	671	627	758	1024	+ 53	+ 35
Palmer	7128	7478	11474	9812	+ 38	- 14
Petersburg	528	540	587	690	+ 31	+ 18
Seward	2579	2288	3090	2354	- 9	- 24
Sitka	2302	2402	2345	1680	- 27	- 28
Tok	770	1024	997	753	- 2	- 24
Unalaska	446	363	407	348	- 22	- 14
Valdez	1003	895	711	538	- 46	- 24
Wrangell	491	699	599	641	+ 31	+ 7
TOTAL	127238	135471	135701	131087	+ 3	- 3

TRAFFIC DISPOSITIONS USED AS FILINGS

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	11582	14035	15655	14875	+ 28	- 5
Second	1977	2096	2291	2690	+ 36	+ 17
Third	90381	96905	100893	96042	+ 6	- 5
Fourth	23298	22435	16862	17480	- 25	+ 4

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 86

COURT	CRIMINAL		OTHER		CIVIL		TOTAL
		MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDRENS MATTERS	SMALL CLAIMS	OTHER CIVIL	
Anchorage*		7989	45970		6787	7919	68665
Barrow*		365	236		110	10	721
Bethel*		626	765		459	26	1876
Cordova		228	104	3	91	71	497
Dillingham		362	192	10	142	68	774
Fairbanks*		3247	9043		1715	846	14851
Glennallen		132	214	26	134	22	528
Homer		478	1070		311	237	2096
Juneau*		1758	4203		1613	368	7942
Kenai*		1927	4960		591	146	7624
Ketchikan*		1221	2279		333	89	3922
Kodiak*		710	1746		288	62	2806
Kotzebue*		600	190		150	5	945
Nome*		493	285		223	23	1024
Palmer		1747	6538		1306	221	9812
Petersburg*		303	271		113	3	690
Seward		427	1705		175	47	2354
Sitka*		433	992		201	54	1680
Tok		184	517	17	15	20	753
Unalaska		125	77	5	76	65	348
Valdez		208	187		121	22	538
Wrangell*		316	199		115	11	641
TOTAL		23879	81743	61	15069	10335	131087

*Children's Matters reported in Superior Court

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First		4031	7944		2375	525	14875
Second		1458	711		483	38	2690
Third		14333	62763	44	10022	8880	96042
Fourth		4057	10325	17	2189	892	17480

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30
Traffic Depositions Used as Filings

DISTRICT COURTS DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	63667	66828	60998	60954	- 4	-
Barrow	367	410	439	801	+118	+ 82
Bethel	1192	1127	1452	1776	+ 49	+ 22
Cordova	619	537	460	417	- 33	- 9
Dillingham	438	650	747	683	+ 56	- 9
Fairbanks	21446	19834	13561	15758	- 27	+ 16
Glennallen	725	571	833	498	- 31	- 40
Homer	2640	2322	2458	1852	- 30	- 25
Juneau	4419	5684	6592	7346	+ 66	+ 11
Kenai	6821	7642	7425	7437	+ 9	-
Ketchikan	3049	4253	4392	3773	+ 24	- 14
Kodiak	3030	3124	3667	2799	- 8	- 24
Kotzebue	1005	926	1049	972	- 3	- 7
Nome	672	644	649	1032	+ 54	+ 59
Palmer	7138	6916	10582	9310	+ 30	- 12
Petersburg	411	501	602	666	+ 62	+ 11
Seward	2559	2198	3074	2218	- 13	- 28
Sitka	2345	2455	2431	1605	- 32	- 34
Tok	735	1019	963	721	- 2	- 25
Unalaska	378	407	375	295	- 22	- 21
Valdez	920	846	764	472	- 49	- 38
Wrangell	507	677	507	626	+ 23	+ 23
TOTAL	125083	129571	124020	122011	- 2	- 2

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	10731	13570	14524	14016	+ 31	- 3
Second	2044	1980	2137	2805	+ 37	+ 31
Third	88935	92041	91383	86935	- 2	- 5
Fourth	23373	21980	15976	18255	- 22	+ 14

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS NON-TRAFFIC FILINGS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	15635	17046	22071	22695	+ 45	+ 3
Barrow	333	454	447	485	+ 46	+ 9
Bethel	651	697	1067	1111	+ 71	+ 4
Cordova	535	427	311	393	- 27	+ 26
Dillingham	331	392	590	582	+ 76	- 1
Fairbanks	5495	5482	5371	5808	+ 6	+ 8
Glennallen	375	442	416	314	- 16	- 25
Homer	1134	1014	1069	1026	- 10	- 4
Juneau	3252	3511	4148	3739	+ 15	- 10
Kenai	2203	2775	2708	2664	+ 21	- 2
Ketchikan	1532	1745	1663	1643	+ 7	- 1
Kodiak	1426	1142	1076	1060	- 26	- 1
Kotzebue	730	886	861	755	+ 3	- 12
Nome	468	487	568	739	+ 5	+ 30
Palmer	1958	2508	3425	3274	+ 67	- 4
Petersburg	300	296	345	419	+ 40	+ 21
Seward	604	446	674	649	+ 7	- 4
Sitka	899	986	768	688	- 23	- 10
Tok	214	265	248	236	+ 10	- 5
Unalaska	352	274	239	271	- 23	+ 13
Valdez	490	540	324	351	- 28	+ 8
Wrangell	329	434	362	442	+ 34	+ 22
TOTAL	39246	42249	48751	49344	+ 26	+ 1

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	6312	6972	7286	6931	+ 10	- 5
Second	1531	1827	1876	1979	+ 29	+ 5
Third	25043	27006	32903	33279	+ 33	+ 1
Fourth	6360	6444	6686	7155	+ 13	+ 7

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS NON-TRAFFIC DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	14859	13465	13856	14984	+ 1	+ 8
Barrow	343	390	373	565	+ 65	+ 51
Bethel	702	661	1015	1011	+ 44	-
Cordova	418	412	288	313	- 25	+ 9
Dillingham	373	428	533	491	+ 32	- 8
Fairbanks	5554	5068	4571	6715	+ 21	+ 47
Glennallen	415	289	394	284	- 32	- 28
Homer	1013	888	759	782	- 23	+ 3
Juneau	2704	3110	3188	3143	+ 16	- 1
Kenai	2011	2424	2678	2477	+ 23	- 8
Ketchikan	1287	1689	1483	1494	+ 16	-
Kodiak	1265	1125	1112	1053	- 17	- 5
Kotzebue	786	817	890	782	- 1	- 12
Nome	469	504	459	747	+ 59	+ 63
Palmer	1968	1946	2533	2772	+ 41	+ 9
Petersburg	183	257	360	395	+116	+ 10
Seward	584	356	658	513	- 12	- 22
Sitka	342	1039	854	613	+ 79	- 28
Tok	179	260	214	204	+ 14	- 5
Unalaska	284	318	202	218	- 23	+ 5
Valdez	407	491	377	285	- 30	- 24
Wrangell	345	412	270	427	+ 24	+ 58
TOTAL	36493	36349	37072	40268	+ 10	+ 9

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	4861	6507	6155	6072	+ 25	- 1
Second	1598	1711	1722	2094	+ 31	+ 22
Third	23597	22142	23395	24172	+ 2	+ 3
Fourth	6435	5989	5800	7930	+ 23	+ 37

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS MISDEMEANOR CASE FILINGS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	7886	8679	8019	7989	+ 1	-
Barrow	277	354	345	365	+ 32	+ 6
Bethel	489	544	829	626	- 46	- 24
Cordova	313	241	150	228	- 27	+ 52
Dillingham	247	260	391	362	+ 47	- 7
Fairbanks	4259	4062	3283	3247	- 24	- 1
Glennallen	176	164	245	132	- 25	- 46
Homer	553	503	497	478	- 14	- 4
Juneau	1830	2125	2243	1758	- 4	- 22
Kenai	1797	2315	1995	1927	+ 7	- 3
Ketchikan	1093	1269	1266	1221	+ 12	- 4
Kodiak	1233	880	710	710	- 42	-
Kotzebue	685	666	776	600	- 12	- 23
Nome	394	363	395	493	+ 25	+ 25
Palmer	1313	1808	2163	1747	+ 33	- 19
Petersburg	207	183	211	303	+ 46	+ 44
Seward	408	349	488	427	+ 5	- 12
Sitka	629	790	546	433	- 31	- 21
Tok	186	226	212	184	- 1	- 13
Unalaska	226	171	142	125	- 45	- 12
Valdez	215	306	252	208	- 3	- 17
Wrangell	282	305	234	316	+ 12	+ 35
TOTAL	24698	26563	25392	23879	- 3	- 6

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	4041	4672	4500	4031	-	- 10
Second	1356	1383	1516	1458	+ 8	- 4
Third	14367	15676	15052	14333	-	- 5
Fourth	4934	4832	4324	4057	- 18	- 6

DISTRICT COURTS MISDEMEANOR CASES COMPOSITION OF FILINGS

FY 86

COURT	VIOLENCE	THEFT/ FRAUD	ENVIRON- MENTAL	NUISANCE	ALCOHOL DRUGS	RESISTING THE LAW	VICE	TRAFFIC	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	1171	1680	84	614	172	161	1	4068	38	7989
Barrow	62	6	13	45	92	1	0	131	15	365
Bethel	185	22	11	128	62	1	1	203	13	626
Cordova	14	9	35	50	43	6	0	63	8	228
Dillingham	56	12	34	83	74	6	0	75	22	362
Fairbanks	246	617	53	557	185	19	6	1326	238	3247
Glennallen	11	15	31	31	4	0	0	40	0	132
Homer	27	37	51	56	29	13	0	255	10	478
Juneau	148	152	63	339	254	48	0	718	36	1758
Kenai	130	117	214	131	142	42	0	1099	52	1927
Ketchikan	70	102	126	196	203	19	0	457	48	1221
Kodiak	57	74	101	118	81	1	0	271	7	710
Kotzebue	125	35	4	121	192	14	0	98	11	600
Nome	104	43	25	91	116	2	0	87	25	493
Palmer	85	109	155	123	102	22	0	1124	27	1747
Petersburg	12	42	74	40	42	5	0	84	4	303
Seward	29	33	46	61	43	7	0	192	16	427
Sitka	44	59	35	56	73	2	0	148	16	433
Tok	12	13	16	49	27	1	0	66	0	184
Unalaska	27	8	21	37	6	3	0	17	6	125
Valdez	19	21	20	34	33	4	0	76	1	208
Wrangell	10	10	103	47	30	9	0	106	1	316
TOTAL	2644	3216	1315	3007	2005	386	8	10704	594	23879
% OF TOTAL	11	13	6	13	8	2	.03	45	2	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	284	365	401	678	602	83	0	1513	105	4031
Second	291	84	42	257	400	17	0	316	51	1458
Third	1626	2115	792	1338	729	265	1	7280	187	14333
Fourth	443	652	80	734	274	21	7	1595	251	4057

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS MISDEMEANOR CASES DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	8518	7228	8100	7647	- 10	- 6
Barrow	298	357	285	439	+ 47	+ 54
Bethel	501	526	818	636	+ 27	- 22
Cordova	301	261	127	198	- 34	+ 56
Dillingham	257	281	334	323	+ 26	- 3
Fairbanks	4289	3738	2955	3355	- 22	+ 14
Glennallen	201	107	196	124	- 38	- 37
Homer	566	428	496	450	- 20	- 9
Juneau	1676	1920	1797	1740	+ 4	- 3
Kenai	1738	2131	1917	1859	+ 7	- 3
Ketchikan	1016	1137	1160	1133	+ 12	- 2
Kodiak	1123	937	728	622	- 45	- 15
Kotzebue	666	696	752	668	-	- 11
Nome	413	399	349	477	+ 15	+ 37
Palmer	1205	1512	1879	1654	+ 37	- 12
Petersburg	158	185	171	268	+ 70	+ 57
Seward	419	301	501	393	- 6	- 22
Sitka	657	765	636	415	- 37	- 35
Tok	156	212	180	158	+ 1	- 12
Unalaska	170	201	107	120	- 29	+ 12
Valdez	225	270	212	191	- 15	- 10
Wrangell	291	300	199	311	+ 7	+ 56
TOTAL	24844	23892	23899	23181	- 7	- 3

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	3798	4307	3963	3867	+ 2	- 2
Second	1377	1452	1386	1584	+ 15	+ 14
Third	14723	13657	14597	13581	- 8	- 7
Fourth	4946	4476	3953	4149	- 16	+ 5

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS MISDEMEANOR CASES DISPOSITION STAGES

FY 86

COURT	STAGES OF DISPOSITION								TOTAL DISPOSITIONS
	AT/BEFORE ARRAIGNMENT		BETWEEN ARGN. AND TRIAL		COURT TRIALS		JURY TRIALS		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Anchorage	2242	29	5238	68	37	1	130	2	7647
Barrow	16	4	410	93	3	1	10	2	439
Bethel	190	30	431	68	1	.2	14	2	636
Cordova	66	33	121	61	8	4	3	2	198
Dillingham	117	36	199	62	2	.6	5	1.4	323
Fairbanks	923	28	2320	69	30	1	82	2	3355
Glennallen	67	54	57	46	0	0	0	0	124
Homer	94	21	351	78	0	0	5	1	450
Juneau	569	33	1090	62	69	4	12	1	1740
Kenai	591	32	1218	65	14	1	36	2	1859
Ketchikan	523	46	561	50	22	2	27	2	1133
Kodiak	111	18	495	80	7	1	9	1	622
Kotzebue	112	17	547	82	-	-	9	1	668
Nome	82	17	395	83	0	-	0	-	477
Palmer	497	30	1126	68	8	.5	23	1.5	1654
Petersburg	151	56	89	33	3	1	25	9	268
Seward	147	37	239	61	3	1	4	1	393
Sitka	171	41	226	55	5	1	13	3	415
Tok	66	42	89	56	0	-	3	2	158
Unalaska	52	43	67	56	0	-	1	1	120
Valdez	59	31	124	65	4	2	4	2	191
Wrangell	192	62	109	35	10	3	0	-	311
TOTAL	7038		15502		226		415		23181
% OF TOTAL		30		67		1		2	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1606	41	2075	54	109	3	77	2	3867
Second	210	13	1352	85	3	.2	19	1.3	1584
Third	4043	30	9235	68	83	.6	220	1.6	13581
Fourth	1179	28	2840	68	31	1	99	2	4149

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS SMALL CLAIMS CASE FILINGS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	4918	5041	6754	6787	+ 38	-
Barrow	43	74	89	110	+156	+ 24
Bethel	154	134	225	459	+198	+104
Cordova	83	105	85	91	+ 10	+ 7
Dillingham	57	45	144	142	+149	- 1
Fairbanks	777	946	1475	1715	+121	+ 16
Glennallen	174	253	134	134	- 23	-
Homer	391	312	364	311	- 20	- 15
Juneau	1133	1159	1671	1613	+ 42	- 3
Kenai	308	426	592	591	+ 92	-
Ketchikan	311	417	323	333	+ 7	+ 3
Kodiak	156	222	331	288	+ 85	- 13
Kotzebue	43	219	60	150	+249	+150
Nome	67	108	168	223	+233	+ 33
Palmer	578	651	1158	1306	+126	+ 13
Petersburg	90	109	129	113	+ 26	- 12
Seward	162	68	146	175	+ 8	+ 20
Sitka	226	152	186	201	- 11	+ 8
Tok	21	22	26	15	- 29	- 42
Unalaska	59	48	41	76	+ 29	+ 85
Valdez	172	101	65	121	- 30	+ 86
Wrangell	46	123	118	115	+150	- 3
TOTAL	9969	10735	14284	15069	+ 51	+ 5

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1806	1960	2427	2375	+ 32	- 2
Second	153	401	317	483	+216	+ 52
Third	7058	7272	9814	10022	+ 42	+ 2
Fourth	952	1102	1726	2189	+191	+ 27

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS SMALL CLAIMS CASE DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	3358	4296	3692	4156	+ 24	+ 13
Barrow	33	21	70	117	+255	+ 67
Bethel	194	122	187	352	+ 81	+ 88
Cordova	48	98	82	73	+ 52	- 11
Dillingham	74	60	135	112	+ 51	- 17
Fairbanks	768	855	1075	2390	+211	+122
Glennallen	196	158	174	115	- 41	- 34
Homer	302	293	178	178	- 41	-
Juneau	839	1003	1225	1172	+ 40	- 4
Kenai	212	268	630	521	+146	- 17
Ketchikan	181	441	279	318	+ 76	+ 14
Kodiak	117	162	355	362	+209	+ 2
Kotzebue	118	118	114	111	- 6	- 3
Nome	50	91	102	251	+402	+146
Palmer	709	410	581	1023	+ 44	+ 76
Petersburg	25	69	178	125	+400	- 30
Seward	138	34	120	82	- 41	- 32
Sitka	234	234	180	161	- 31	- 11
Tok	16	28	22	16	-	- 27
Unalaska	28	60	44	43	- 54	- 2
Valdez	95	112	158	73	- 23	- 54
Wrangell	52	107	69	109	+110	+ 58
TOTAL	7787	9040	9650	11860	+ 52	+ 23

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	1331	1854	1931	1885	+ 42	- 2
Second	201	230	286	479	+138	+ 67
Third	5277	5951	6149	6738	+ 28	+ 10
Fourth	978	1005	1284	2758	+182	+115

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS SMALL CLAIMS CASES DISPOSITION STAGES

FY 86

COURT	STAGES OF DISPOSITION					TOTAL DISPOSITIONS
	DISMISS	DEFAULT JUDGMENT	SUMMARY JUDGMENT	TRIAL	OTHER	
Anchorage	1286	1703	912	32	223	4156
Barrow	21	19	3	3	71	117
Bethel	183	91	38	15	25	352
Cordova	44	15	11	3	0	73
Dillingham	50	49	6	6	1	112
Fairbanks	1570	258	25	233	304	2390
Glennallen	52	48	10	4	1	115
Homer	71	70	18	19	0	178
Juneau	502	508	46	74	42	1172
Kenai	113	30	0	44	334	521
Ketchikan	141	114	11	21	31	318
Kodiak	239	53	0	25	45	362
Kotzebue	25	22	13	3	48	111
Nome	92	90	12	2	55	251
Palmer	492	374	70	67	20	1023
Petersburg	73	28	15	9	0	125
Seward	33	30	12	1	6	82
Sitka	66	59	6	17	13	161
Tok	4	2	2	0	8	16
Unalaska	21	10	6	4	2	43
Valdez	38	18	2	6	9	73
Wrangell	60	25	18	6	0	109
TOTAL	5176	3616	1236	594	1238	11860
% OF TOTAL	44	30	10	5	10	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	842	734	96	127	86	1885
Second	138	131	28	8	174	479
Third	2439	2400	1047	211	641	6738
Fourth	1757	351	65	248	337	2758

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS OTHER CIVIL CASE FILINGS*

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	2831	3326	7298	7919	+180	+ 9
Barrow	13	26	13	10	- 23	- 23
Bethel	8	19	13	26	+225	+100
Cordova	90	81	72	71	- 21	- 1
Dillingham	27	77	55	68	+152	+ 24
Fairbanks	459	474	613	846	+ 84	+ 38
Glennallen	25	21	27	22	- 12	- 19
Homer	190	199	208	237	+ 25	+ 14
Juneau	289	227	234	368	+ 27	+ 57
Kenai	98	34	121	146	+ 49	+ 21
Ketchikan	128	59	74	89	- 30	+ 20
Kodiak	37	40	35	62	+ 68	+ 77
Kotzebue	2	1	25	5	+150	- 98
Nome	7	16	5	23	+229	+360
Palmer	67	49	104	221	+230	+113
Petersburg	3	4	5	3	-	- 40
Seward	34	25	32	47	+ 38	+ 47
Sitka	44	44	36	54	+ 23	+ 50
Tok	7	5	6	20	+186	+233
Unalaska	67	47	55	65	- 3	+ 18
Valdez	103	122	7	22	- 79	+214
Wrangell	1	6	10	11	+1000	+ 10
TOTAL	4530	4902	9048	10335	+ 128	+ 14

*This chart includes those Superior Court Civil matters not reported on Superior Court charts

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	465	340	359	525	+ 13	+ 46
Second	22	43	43	38	+ 73	- 12
Third	3569	4021	8014	8880	+149	+ 11
Fourth	474	498	632	892	+ 88	+ 41

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

**DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS**

FY 86

COURT	CIVIL DAMAGE	GENERAL/ OTHER	DIVORCE, ETC.*	TOTAL
Anchorage	3737	4182	N/A	7919
Barrow	0	10	N/A	10
Bethel	8	18	N/A	26
Cordova	12	21	38	71
Dillingham	8	4	56	68
Fairbanks	114	732	N/A	846
Glennallen	3	1	18	22
Homer	8	88	141	237
Juneau	69	299	N/A	368
Kenai	3	143	N/A	146
Ketchikan	59	30	N/A	89
Kodiak	1	61	N/A	62
Kotzebue	2	3	N/A	5
Nome	0	23	N/A	23
Palmer	37	184	N/A	221
Petersburg	1	2	N/A	3
Seward	0	8	39	47
Sitka	1	53	N/A	54
Tok	0	15	5	20
Unalaska	0	3	62	65
Valdez	0	22	N/A	22
Wrangell	6	5	N/A	11
TOTAL	4069	5907	359	10335
% OF TOTAL	39	57	4	100

*Superior Court matters not reported on a Superior Court Chart

N/A NOT APPLICABLE - REPORTED IN SUPERIOR COURT

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	136	389	-	525
Second	2	36	-	38
Third	3809	4717	354	8880
Fourth	122	765	5	892

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS OTHER CIVIL CASES DISPOSITIONS

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	2983	1941	2064	3181	+ 7	+ 54
Barrow	12	12	18	9	- 25	- 50
Bethel	7	13	10	23	+229	+130
Cordova	69	53	79	41	- 41	- 48
Dillingham	42	74	63	48	+ 14	- 24
Fairbanks	497	475	541	970	+ 95	+ 79
Glennallen	18	16	21	16	- 11	- 24
Homer	145	167	85	154	+ 6	+ 81
Juneau	189	187	166	231	+ 22	+ 39
Kenai	61	44	131	97	+ 59	- 26
Ketchikan	90	111	44	43	- 52	- 2
Kodiak	25	26	29	69	+176	+138
Kotzebue	2	3	24	3	+ 50	- 88
Nome	6	14	8	19	+217	+138
Palmer	54	24	73	95	+ 76	+ 30
Petersburg	-	3	11	2	-	- 82
Seward	27	17	31	38	+ 41	+ 23
Sitka	51	40	38	37	- 27	- 3
Tok	7	5	8	19	+171	+138
Unalaska	86	45	56	53	- 38	- 5
Valdez	87	107	7	21	- 76	+200
Wrangell	2	5	2	7	+250	+250
TOTAL	4460	3382	3509	5176	+ 16	+ 48

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	332	332	261	320	- 4	+ 23
Second	20	20	50	31	+ 55	- 38
Third	2581	3597	2639	3813	+ 48	+ 44
Fourth	517	511	559	1012	+ 96	+ 81

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS CIVIL CASES DISPOSITION STAGES

FY 86

COURT	STAGES OF DISPOSITION						TOTAL DISPOSITIONS
	DISMISS	DEFAULT JUDGMENT	SUMMARY JUDGMENT	JURY TRIAL	COURT TRIAL	OTHER	
Anchorage	611	1733	442	7	35	353	3181
Barrow	1					8	9
Bethei	7	5	0	0	3	8	23
Cordova	11	9	3	0	0	18	41
Dillingham	8	2	2	0	1	35	48
Fairbanks	557	117	72	4	26	194	970
Glennallen	1	1	3	0	0	11	16
Homer	26	10	0	0	13	105	154
Juneau	66	89	20	0	23	33	231
Kenai	9	5	1	0	1	81	97
Ketchikan	15	9	7	0	2	10	43
Kodiak	51	11	1	0	0	6	69
Kotzebue	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Nome	7	8	0	0	0	4	19
Palmer	32	44	14	0	0	5	95
Petersburg	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Seward	5	0	0	0	0	33	38
Sitka	8	14	2	1	10	2	37
Tok	6	0	1	0	0	12	19
Unalaska	6	0	2	0	0	45	53
Valdez	3	8	0	0	2	8	21
Wrangell	3	1	1	0	0	2	7
TOTAL	1436	2066	571	12	116	975	5176
% OF TOTAL	28	40	11	.2	2	19	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	94	113	30	1	35	47	320
Second	9	8	0	0	0	14	31
Third	763	1823	468	7	52	700	3813
Fourth	570	122	73	4	29	214	1012

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS TRAFFIC CASES DISPOSITIONS*

FY 83 - FY 86

COURT	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 83 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage	48808	53363	47142	45970	- 6	- 2
Barrow	24	20	66	236	+883	+258
Bethel	490	466	437	765	+ 56	+ 75
Cordova	201	125	172	104	- 48	- 40
Dillingham	65	222	214	192	+195	- 10
Fairbanks	15892	14766	8990	9043	- 43	-
Glennallen	310	282	439	214	- 31	- 51
Homer	1627	1434	1701	1070	- 34	- 37
Juneau	1715	2574	3404	4203	+145	+ 23
Kenai	4810	5218	4747	4960	+ 3	+ 4
Ketchikan	1762	2564	2909	2279	+ 29	- 22
Kodiak	1765	1999	2555	1746	- 1	- 32
Kotzebue	219	109	159	190	- 13	+ 19
Nome	203	140	190	285	+ 40	+ 50
Palmer	5170	4970	8049	6538	+ 26	- 19
Petersburg	228	244	242	271	+ 19	+ 12
Seward	1975	1842	2416	1705	- 14	- 29
Sitka	1403	1416	1577	992	- 29	- 37
Tok	556	759	749	517	- 7	- 31
Unalaska	94	89	168	77	- 18	- 54
Valdez	513	355	387	187	- 64	- 52
Wrangell	162	265	237	199	+ 23	- 16
TOTAL	87992	93222	86950	81743	- 7	- 6

*Tickets counted after dispositions only. No record of current filings

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	5270	7063	8369	7944	+ 51	- 5
Second	446	269	415	711	+ 59	+ 71
Third	65338	69899	67990	62763	- 4	- 8
Fourth	16938	15991	10176	10325	- 39	+ 1

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS TRAFFIC CASES COMPOSITION OF DISPOSITION

FY 86

COURT	EQUIPMENT	SPEEDING	SIGNS/ CONTROL DEVICES	OTHER MOVING	LICENSE RESTRIC- TION	REGIS- TRATION/ TITLE	OTHER	UNKNOWN*	TOTAL
Anchorage	5733	13230	5042	4282	2982	9561	4445	695	45970
Barrow	3	11	48	10	32	0	23	109	236
Bethel	40	40	37	23	52	148	55	370	765
Cordova	2	27	15	4	6	25	7	18	104
Dillingham	16	2	21	9	25	19	17	83	192
Fairbanks	882	3248	868	679	1014	1401	951	0	9043
Glennallen	11	148	4	4	6	12	11	18	214
Homer	55	457	23	47	89	102	89	208	1070
Juneau	189	1001	313	157	407	490	277	1369	4203
Kenai	285	2596	208	244	353	693	405	176	4960
Ketchikan	316	917	62	104	284	442	102	52	2279
Kodiak	123	577	170	90	199	378	114	95	1746
Kotzebue	0	8	2	0	19	2	24	135	190
Nome	11	18	28	15	20	33	76	84	285
Palmer	420	4037	285	349	306	667	423	51	6538
Petersburg	12	125	13	25	42	19	14	21	271
Seward	22	935	21	60	56	92	71	448	1705
Sitka	265	202	60	48	114	153	72	78	992
Tok	4	409	4	8	37	30	19	6	517
Unalaska	5	9	23	1	7	22	8	2	77
Valdez	15	45	15	8	8	9	26	61	187
Wrangell	14	59	14	18	52	11	28	3	199
TOTAL	8423	28101	7276	6185	6110	14309	7257	4082	81743
% OF TOTAL	10	34	9	8	7	18	9	5	100

*Not entered into computer, no positive I.D.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First	796	2304	462	352	899	1115	493	1523	7944
Second	14	37	78	25	71	35	123	328	711
Third	6687	22063	5827	5098	4037	11580	5616	1855	62763
Fourth	926	3697	909	710	1103	1579	1025	376	10325

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS CHILDREN'S MATTERS FILINGS

FY 84 - FY 86

COURT		FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 84 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage*						
Barrow*						
Bethel*						
Cordova		10	4	3	- 70	- 25
Dillingham				10	-	-
Fairbanks*						
Glennallen		4	10	26	+550	+160
Homer						
Juneau*						
Kenai*						
Ketchikan*						
Kodiak*						
Kotzebue*						
Nome*						
Palmer *		0	*	*	-	-
Petersburg*						
Seward		4	8	0	-	-
Sitka*						
Tok		12	4	17	+ 42	+325
Unalaska		8	1	5	- 38	+400
Valdez *		11	*	*	-	-
Wrangell*						
TOTAL		49	27	61	+ 24	+126

*Children's Matters reported in Superior Court

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First						
Second						
Third		37	23	44	+ 19	+ 91
Fourth		12	4	17	+ 42	+325

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURTS CHILDREN'S MATTERS DISPOSITIONS

FY 84 - FY 86

COURT		FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	% INCREASE	
					FY 84 to FY 86	FY 85 to FY 86
Anchorage*						
Barrow*						
Bethel*						
Cordova				1		
Dillingham		13	1	8	- 38	+700
Fairbanks*						
Glennallen		8	3	29	+263	+867
Homer						
Juneau*						
Kenai*						
Ketchikan*						
Kodiak*						
Kotzebue*						
Nome*						
Palmer			*	*		
Petersburg*						
Seward		4	6	-		
Sitka*						
Tok		15	4	11	- 27	+175
Unalaska		12	0	2	- 83	-
Valdez		2	*	*		
Wrangell*						
TOTAL		54	14	51	- 6	+264

*Children's Matters reported in Superior Court

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT

First						
Second						
Third		39	10	40	+ 3	+300
Fourth		15	4	11	- 27	+175

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

DISTRICT COURT
(Lower Volume)

LOWER VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS CASELOAD FY 86

Alaska's lower volume district courts experienced an 11% increase in case filings in FY 86. Increased filings were reported in all case categories for courts located in the first, third and fourth judicial districts. Second district courts reported a 2% decrease in filings. Dispositions in these courts increased by 22%.

Filings of misdemeanors in these courts increased by 11% overall. First, third and fourth district courts reported 22%, 14% and 3% increases respectively while second district sites reported a 3% decrease in misdemeanor filings.

Civil case filings (almost all small claims cases) in these courts increased significantly in all districts except the third, in which civil case filings remained constant with FY 85 levels.

Traffic citation dispositions increased by 10% in these courts during FY 86.

Filings of emergency children's matters were up 2% in these courts over FY 85 levels.

As was discussed earlier in this report, felony case filings will no longer be reported in these courts. All felony matters will be reported in superior courts.

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS FILINGS

FY 86

JUDICIAL DISTRICT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
First		1014	416	39	232	1701
Second		278			17	295
Third		549	82	16	61	708
Fourth		730	1503	27	614	2874
TOTAL		2571	2001	82	924	5578
% OF TOTAL		46	36	2	16	100

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS DISPOSITIONS

FY 86

JUDICIAL DISTRICT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
First		794	416	5	165	1380
Second		274			10	284
Third		526	82	4	72	684
Fourth		666	1503	13	456	2638
TOTAL		2260	2001	22	703	4986
% OF TOTAL		45	40	1	14	100

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT FILINGS

FY 86

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Angoon		32	0	0	24	56
Craig		459	210	5	33	707
Haines		108	43	17	47	215
Hoonah		122	0	8	49	179
Kake		104	28	7	8	147
Skagway		11	122	0	31	164
Yakutat		164	13	2	39	218
TOTAL		1014	416	39	232	1701
% OF TOTAL		60	24	2	14	

PELICAN

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DISTRICT COURT DISPOSITIONS

FY 86

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Angoon		32	0	0	6	38
Craig		388	210	0	34	632
Haines		82	43	0	27	152
Hoonah		105	0	0	28	133
Kake		101	28	5	5	139
Skagway		13	122	0	43	178
Yakutat		57	13	0	19	89
TOTAL		794	416	5	165	1380
% OF TOTAL		58	30	.3	12	

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

PELICAN

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SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT FILINGS

FY 86

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Gambell						
Kiana		23		0	7	30
Noorvik						
Pt. Hope		12			1	13
Savoonga		55			2	57
Selawik		45			3	48
Shungnak		15			1	16
Unalakleet		128			3	131
TOTAL		278			17	295
% OF TOTAL		94			6	100

DISTRICT COURT DISPOSITIONS

FY 86

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Gambell						
Kiana		14			3	17
Noorvik						
Pt. Hope		20			1	21
Savoonga		55			0	55
Selawik		45			3	48
Shungnak		12			0	12
Unalakleet		128			3	131
TOTAL		274			10	284
% OF TOTAL		96			4	100

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT FILINGS

FY 86

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay		13	2	0	3	18
Naknek		370	42	12	48	472
Sand Point						
Seldovia		26	20	0	2	48
St. Paul Island		131	13	4	6	154
Whittier		9	5	0	2	16
TOTAL		549	82	16	61	708
% OF TOTAL		77	12	2	9	100

DISTRICT COURT DISPOSITIONS

FY 86

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay		7	2	0	1	10
Naknek		363	42	0	64	469
Sand Point						
Seldovia		23	20	0	1	44
St. Paul Island		131	13	4	6	154
Whittier		2	5	0	0	7
TOTAL		526	82	4	72	684
% OF TOTAL		77	12	1	10	100

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1 — JUNE 30

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT FILINGS

FY 86

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak		50	0	3	49	102
Delta Junction		74	323	13	139	549
Emmonak		81	0	0	48	129
Ft. Yukon		31	3	1	56	91
Galena		70	3	4	23	100
Healy		72	685	2	23	782
Scammon Bay		31	0	0	20	51
McGrath		31	6	1	45	83
Mekoryuk						
Mt. Village						
Nenana		115	477	0	84	676
Quinhagak		25	4	0	16	45
St. Mary		133	1	2	108	244
Tanana		17	1	1	3	22
TOTAL		730	1503	27	614	2874
% OF TOTAL		25	52	1	21	100

DISTRICT COURT DISPOSITIONS

FY 86

COURT	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CHILDREN'S MATTERS	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak		44	0	0	86	130
Delta Junction		72	323	0	85	480
Emmonak		62	0	0	30	92
Ft. Yukon		48	3	1	35	87
Galena		71	3	4	40	118
Healy		65	685	0	15	765
Scammon Bay		18	0	0	14	32
McGrath		35	6	5	43	89
Mekoryuk						
Mt. Village						
Nenana		89	477	0	46	612
Quinhagak		18	4	0	6	28
St. Mary		120	1	2	54	177
Tanana		24	1	1	2	28
TOTAL		666	1503	13	456	2638
% OF TOTAL		25	57	1	17	100